

F  
74

A785D3

UC-NRLF



\$B 542 206

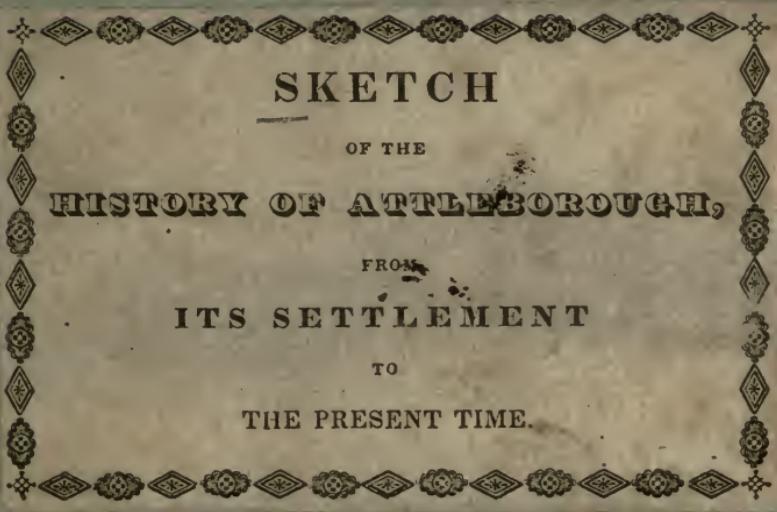






Taunton  
From the Author.

Diggett, John



SKETCH  
OF THE  
HISTORY OF ATTLEBOROUGH,  
FROM  
ITS SETTLEMENT  
TO  
THE PRESENT TIME.



Two

22

thills

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2008 with funding from  
Microsoft Corporation

# **SKETCH**

**OF THE**

**HISTORY OF ATTLEBOROUGH,**

**FROM**

**ITS SETTLEMENT**

**TO**

**THE PRESENT TIME.**

---

**BY JOHN DAGGETT.**

---

**Dedham :**

**H. MANN.....PRINTER.**

**1834.**

# NOTES

ON THE

THEORY

OF THE

OF

THE

OF

OF

OF

OF

OF

F 14  
A 785 D 3

## INTRODUCTION.

---

This little work is designed principally for the citizens of this town. The subject is not presumed to be of sufficient interest to attract the particular attention of strangers. I have, therefore, entered into details and local descriptions which will not be interesting to readers in general, but only to those who are connected with the scene by association or locality.

The work originated in a Lecture delivered before the Lyceum in Attleborough in 1830, which was prepared without the most distant idea of publication. The subject, though an *old* one, being entirely *new* to the hearers, excited much interest. At the earnest request of many of the most respectable citizens of the town, I concluded to prepare it for publication, to be included in a mere pamphlet of about 60 pages. In compliance with what seemed the general wish, proposals were accordingly issued, to ascertain if sufficient encouragement would be given to justify the undertaking. But in the prosecution of my researches, new materials were found, and the work multiplied upon my hands, until it has extended to more than double its original size.

When the author attempted to prepare even a brief lecture on the subject and began to make inquiries accordingly, he was told that it was in vain—that no materials existed from which a sketch could be formed, particularly in relation to our early history. The attempt indeed was at first discouraging. The field was new and unexplored. There was no light ‘to lead my blind way’ through the dark labyrinths of the past. Little or nothing was contained in other works to which I could refer for aid. The spot had almost escaped the prying curiosity of the antiquarian. I found, however, after diligent and laborious research, facts enough to make up the present volume.

The materials which are here embodied have been derived mostly from original sources. I have gathered ‘here a little, and there a little.’ Tradition has supplied a part—for some facts I am indebted to the recollections of the aged; others I have industriously gleaned from a mass of voluminous and almost illegible records and other manuscripts. I have left nothing unsearched which might throw light on the early history of the town.

The object of this work is not mere amusement, but the preservation of facts. I have, therefore, selected not merely what might be interesting at the present time, but what might be valuable for future reference. Hence, some may think that it is too minute in the relation of circumstances; but others, knowing the true objects of such a work, will be rather inclined to complain that it is not minute enough. Minuteness and detail are, in fact, the principal merit of local histories. Such works will furnish materials for more general history. This is the design;—or at least, one great benefit to be derived from them is the collection and preservation of facts for a more full and perfect history of the country. Many items which have been collected together in these pages, however unimportant

M546444

now, will be curiosities to future generations. They will become more interesting, as time throws its thickening shadows over the actors and events of the past.

I have seized the present moment and gathered what could be obtained from tradition, and thus arrested what was rapidly passing into the gulf of oblivion. I have been particularly minute in describing the transactions connected with the Revolution. Those, who lived in that age—who saw and acted in the great scenes which then transpired, and who alone can give us correct and circumstantial accounts of that period, will, in a very few years more, have passed from the stage of life; and thus interesting and important facts will be irrecoverably lost to us and to posterity, unless now rescued and embodied in a durable form. The present is the only time to obtain minute and circumstantial accounts of the Revolution. Even now, since the commencement of this work, several, from whom I have obtained facts in relation to that period, have descended to the silence of the grave. It is hoped, that every opportunity will be improved, to collect information from those who were personally engaged in the scenes of the Revolution, ere they shall all disappear from the stage of life. It is useless to disguise that the labor and expense of collecting the materials and preparing the work, brief and imperfect as it is, have far exceeded my expectations. Indeed, no one, until he has tried the experiment, can fully appreciate the labor and patience and perseverance which are requisite in connecting insulated facts and supplying broken links in the chain, and the perplexity which is caused in reconciling apparent contradictions and removing doubts. I have, however, no expectation of receiving an adequate compensation for the time and expense bestowed upon the work; but the consciousness of having redeemed from undeserved neglect the names of our worthy forefathers, and rescued from oblivion many facts in the history of my native town, which would otherwise have been irrecoverably lost, will be, if not a sufficient reward, at least a consolation.

Such a work, I am aware, is of no great consequence to any but those who are connected with the town. But it takes many little rills to make up the great current of history. All these things tend to throw light on the interesting subject of our early history; and, in this view, every historical fact, however minute or unimportant in itself, is valuable and worthy of preservation. And it may be truly said, that he has not labored in vain, who has added one new truth to what is already known, or elucidated one dark spot in his country's history.

In the extracts which have been made from ancient records, I have retained the original dates, and the titles which were bestowed in accordance with the custom of former times. Even the most inferior titles then conferred some distinction. In the earliest records it is not uncommon to find 'Corporal and Sergeant' such-a-one. Ensign, Lieut. and Capt. were invariably applied to those who could claim the honor. Even the title of *Mr.* which is now without distinction, on account of its indiscriminate application, was once esteemed an honor to which but few could aspire!

I have labored to be accurate, but some errors have doubtless, escaped the closest attention. If any should be observed, it will be esteemed a favor, if those who have the means will communicate the correction.

*Attleborough, Jan. 1834.*

## HISTORY OF ATTLEBOROUGH.

---

In 1643 a company was formed at Weymouth, Mass. consisting of Rev. Samuel Newman and a part of his congregation, for the purpose of establishing a new settlement in this vicinity. They purchased a large tract of land of the Sachem of Pokanoket, including what is now Rehoboth, Seekonk, Pawtucket, and a part of Swansea then known by the name of Wannamoissett; and in the spring of 1644, removed to a place then called by the Indians Seacunke, and commenced their settlement around the Great Plain. This was the Rehoboth purchase. Here the inhabitants continued, with many additions to their number, as a distinct settlement until June 4th, 1645, when they were adopted into the jurisdiction of Plymouth Colony, and incorporated as a township by the scriptural name of Rehoboth.

In 1661, Captain Thomas Willet was employed by that town to make a purchase of a new tract of land in their behalf, having been first authorized and empowered by the Court for that purpose. He accordingly purchased of Wamsutta\* a certain tract of land north of the town of Rehoboth, which was called the Rehoboth *North* Purchase. It was bounded

---

\* Sachem of Pokanoket, originally called Mooanam, afterwards Alexander, the elder brother of King Phillip and son of Massasoit. He died in the summer of 1662. His wife's name was Namumpum.—See *Drake's Indian Biography*.

West by Pawtucket River, now the Blackstone; North by the Massachusetts Colony or the Bay line, (so called); East by territory which was afterwards the Taunton North Purchase, now Mansfield, Norton, and Easton; and South by the ancient Rehoboth, now Rehoboth, Seekonk, and Pawtucket. This purchase included Attleborough, Cumberland, R. I. and a tract of a mile and a half\* in width, extending east and west, (which was annexed to Rehoboth as an enlargement,) and a part of Mansfield and Norton. This purchase was afterwards, viz. April 10th, 1666, granted and confirmed by the Plymouth Government to the inhabitants of Rehoboth.

The following copy of the Indian Deed is taken from the Old Colony Records.

*A Deed appointed to be recorded.*

KNOW all men, that I Wamsetta, alias Alexander, chief Sachem of Pokanokett,† for divers good causes and valuable considerations me thereunto moving, have bargained and sold unto Captain Thomas Willett of Wannamoisett all those tracts of land situate and being from the bounds of Rehoboth ranging upon Patuckett River unto a place called Waweypounshag, the place where one Blackston now sojourneth, and so ranging along to the said river unto a place called Messanegtacaneh and from this upon a straight line crossing through the woods unto the uttermost bounds of a place called Mamantapett or Wading River, and from the said River one mile and a half upon an east line, and from thence upon a south line unto the bounds of the town of Rehoboth: To have and to hold unto him the said Captain Willett and his associates, their heirs and assigns forever; reserving only a competent portion of land for some of the natives at Mishanegitaconett for to plant and sojourn upon, as the said Wamsetta alias Alexander and the said Thomas Willett jointly together shall see meet; and the rest of all the land aforementioned, with all the woods, waters,

---

\* It was given, verbally, to Rehoboth by the agents of the Court who were appointed to convey the North Purchase to the Proprietors, and afterwards re-annexed to Attleborough.

† Or Pocanaket, or Pawkunnawkut, a name applied to the whole dominion of King Phillip, whose personal tribe was the Wampanoags.

meadows, and all emoluments whatsoever to remain unto the said Thomas Willett and his associates, their heirs and assigns forever. Witness my hand and seal the eighth day of April in the year 1661.

*The mark of* AXA

*Signed, sealed and delivered  
in presence of*

Wamsitta alias Alexander,  
his seal [L. s.]

John Brown Jr.

Jonathan Bosworth,

John Sassaman the Interpreter.

April 10th, 1666. Witnesseth These Presents, that Captain Thomas Willett above said hath and doth hereby resign, deliver and make over all and singular the lands above mentioned, purchased of Wamsitta alias Alexander chief Sachem of Pocanokett, according unto the bounds above expressed, with all and singular the benefits, privileges, and immunities thereunto appertaining, unto Mr. Thomas Prence, Major Josias Winslow, Capt. Thomas Southworth, and Mr. Constant Southworth, in the behalf of the Colony of New Plymouth. In witness whereof he doth hereunto set his hand and seal.

*Signed, sealed and delivered  
in presence of*

THOMAS WILLETT [Seal]

Daniel Smith,

Nicholas Peck.

*The following is the Grant or Deed\* of the Government.*

Know all men by these presents, that we Thomas Prence, Josias Winslow, Thomas Southworth and Constant Southworth by order of the General Court of New Plymouth, and in the name and behalf of the said Colony of Plymouth, have and by these presents do bargain, sell, alien, grant and confer and make over unto the proprietors of the town of Rehoboth (viz.) unto all that hold there, from a fifty pound estate and upwards, according to their first agreement, all and singular the lands lying and being on the north side of that town of Rehoboth bound-

---

\* The original is among the Records of the Proprietors of the R. N. Purchase.

ed as followeth, (viz.) by a River commonly called Patucket river, on the west, and up the said River unto the Massachusetts Line, and on the northerly side by the said Line until it cross the old road towards the Bay, where the marked tree stands and heap of stones, and thence a mile and a half east, and from thence by a direct line to the north east corner of the present bounds of the town of Rehoboth, and so back again home unto the said Line between the governments; with all the meadows, woods, waters, and all benefits, emoluments, privileges, and immunities, thereunto appertaining and belonging, to have and to hold to them and to their heirs for ever; Excepting that we reserve within this tract a farm formerly granted unto Major Josias Winslow, and a farm granted unto Capt. Thomas Willett, and two hundred acres of land unto Mr. James Brown about Snake Hill, and ten acres of meadow thereabouts; and the meadow called Blackstone's Meadow, the west plain and the South neck the quantity of two hundred acres, and the fifty acres granted to Roger Amadown, with four acres of meadow adjoining, three acres of meadow to Nicholas Ide, and half an acre of meadow unto George Robinson: All the residue of the lands above mentioned we do hereby firmly make over unto the above said purchasers and their heirs for ever, and do hereby acknowledge ourselves to be fully paid and satisfied for the same, and do exonerate, acquit and discharge them and every of them for and concerning the premises.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals, this tenth of April 1666.

*Signed, sealed and delivered*

*in presence of*

Isaac Howland

*The mark x of*

John Parris

*The mark x of*

John Rocket.

Thomas Prence (L. s.)

Josias Winslow (L. s.)

Thomas Southworth (L. s.)

Constant Southworth (L. s.)

#### MARGINAL NOTE.

It was also agreed before the signing and sealing of this Deed that, according unto a clause in the Indian Deed when

these lands were purchased by Capt. Willett, that some meet proportion of lands about Sinnichiconet, such as the said Capt. Willett and the Indian Sachem shall agree upon, should be set out for the use of the Indians.

NOTE ON THE BACK OF THE SAME DEED.

This Deed is recorded according to order by me Nathaniel Morton, Secretary to the Court of New Plymouth.

The Dividend of Lands enrolled  
Folio 217.

The following order relating to this subject was passed by the Court of Plymouth.

New Plymouth October 2d 1665.

WHEREAS the Court, having formerly impowered Capt. Thomas Willet to purchase of the Indians certain Tracts of lands on the North of Rehoboth towards the Bay Line, the which he hath done, and is out of purse some considerable sum of money for the same, this Court have appointed the Honored Governor, the Major Winslow, Capt. Southworth, and Mr. Constant Southworth, to treat with Capt. Willet concerning the said purchase, and have impowered the above named Committee to take notice of what hath been purchased by him, and what Deeds he hath, and what his disbursments have been for the same; and have also impowered them to settle upon him such a proportion of the said lands as may appear to be equal, upon any grant to him; and to accommodate the town of Rehoboth respecting an enlargement of their town, as the Court have promised; and to take such course concerning the remainder as he may be reimbursed of his just due and those lands may be settled by the Court.'

Extracted from and compared with the Records of said Court.

Per. SAMUEL SPRAGUE Clerk.

The following introduction is entered in the first Book of the Records of the R. N. Purchase:

WHEREAS, in the year one thousand six hundred sixty and six, a purchase of lands was made by the Inhabitants of Rehoboth and the neighborhood of Annimosett:—the said lands situate on the North side of the Towne of Rehoboth—of Mr.

Thomas Prince Esquire, Major Josiah Winslow, Captain Thomas Southworth Agents of the Government of New Plymouth, the bounds of the said lands fully appearing by a Deed of sale made by the aforesaid gentlemen, to the purchasers thereof, bearing date the tenth of April 1666, which deed hath been inrolled at the Court of New Plymouth according to order of Court. The bounds of the said lands are as followeth, (viz.) by a river called Patucket river, on the West, and up the said river unto the Massachusetts line; and on the Northerly side, by the same line, until it cross the ould Roade towards the Bay, where the marked tree stands, and a heape of stones; and thence a mile and halfe East, and from thence by a direct line to the North East corner of the *ancient* bounds of the towne of Rehoboth, and soe back againe home to the said line between the Governments—Excepting there was reserved out of the said tract of land, a farm granted before to Major Josiah Winslow, a farm granted to Captain Thomas Willett, and two hundred acres of land to Mr. James Browne about Snake-hill, and ten acres of Meadow thereabouts; and the Meadow called Blackstone's Meadow the West plaine; and the South neck the quantity of two hundred acres; and fifty acres granted to Roger Ammidown with four acres of meadow; and three acres of Meadow to Nicholas Ide; and half an acre to George Robinson; also some Meete proportion of lands for the Indians at Sinnichiteconett; for the use of the said Indians. All the rest of the said lands within the said tract as before bounded, to be equally divided to the purchasers thereof according to their said proportions, (there being Seventy Nine whole shares and a half) being joint purchasers; and the said purchasers have fully discharged and paid the purchase thereof according to their several proportions.

*Mem.* That the clause in the *former* page "to be equally divided to the purchasers thereof" hath reference to the before expressed date (viz.) one thousand Six hundred and Sixty and Six.

The Names of the Purchasers with their Rights to the said Lands before mentioned are those (*no man contradicting*) that are here expressed in the following List.

- Capt. Thomas Willett, (one share, John Wilkinson's)  
 Mr. Stephen Paine Sen. 2 shs. (one that was his own and one that was appointed for John Martin.)  
 Mr. Noah Newman 1 sh.  
 Lieut. Peter Hunt 1 sh.  
 Mr. James Browne 1 sh.  
 Samuel Newman 1 sh.  
 John Allen Sen. 1 sh.  
 John Woodcock  $1\frac{1}{2}$  sh.  
 Thomas Estabrooke's  $\frac{1}{2}$  sh. (bought of Roger Amidowne)  
 Thomas Willmot 2 shs. (one he bought of Jo. Carpenter and one of his own)  
 Sampson Mason 1 sh.  
 Anthoney Perry 1 sh.  
 John Butterworth 1 sh. (this sold to Daniel Jenkes excepting the meadow)  
 Philip Walker 1 sh.  
 John Ormsby 1 sh.  
 Richard Martin 1 sh.  
 Stephen Paine Jun. 1 sh.  
 Rober Joans 1 sh.  
 Obadiah Bowen 1 sh.  
 John Pecke 1 sh.  
 James Redeway 1 sh.  
 Samuel Carpenter 1 sh.  
 John Titus 2 sh. (one that he bought of his mother-in law Abigail Carpenter, and one that was his own)  
 Mr. John Myles 1 sh.  
 William Carpenter 1 sh.  
 Joseph Pecke 1 sh.  
 Thomas Cooper Jun. 1 sh.  
 Ensign Henery Smith 1 sh.  
 Thomas Cooper Sen. 1 sh.  
 Samuel Pecke 1 sh.  
 William Buckland 1 sh.  
 Joseph Buckland 1 sh.  
 Benjamin Buckland, 1 sh.  
 John Reade Sen. 1 sh.  
 John Reade Jun. 1 sh.  
 Nicholas Pecke 1 sh.  
 Elizabeth, Hannah, and Lydia Winchester 1 sh. this sould to Dan'l. Shepardson.  
 Daniel Smith 1 sh.  
 Jonathan Bliss 1 sh.  
 Rice Leonard 1 sh.  
 William Saben 1 sh.  
 John Perrin Sen. 1 sh.  
 George Kendricke 1 sh.  
 George Robenson 1 sh.  
 John Doggett 1 sh.  
 John Fitch 1 sh.  
 Richard Bowen Jun. 1 sh.  
 Elizabeth Bullucke 1 sh.  
 John Miller Jun. 1 sh.  
 Robert Fuller 1 sh.  
 Robert Wheaton 1 sh.  
 Ester Hall 1 sh.  
 John Miller Sen. 1 sh.  
 Jaret Ingraham 1 sh.  
 John Kingsley 1 sh.  
 Gilbert Brookes 1 sh.  
 Thomas Reade 1 sh.  
 Thomas Grant  $\frac{1}{2}$  sh.  
 Jonathan Fuller 1 sh.  
 James Gillson 1 sh. (bought of Samuel Saben)  
 Samuel Luther 1 sh. (this share sold to Mr. Phillip Squire)  
 Nicholas Tanner 1 sh.  
 John Allen Jun. 1 sh.  
 Preserved Abell 1 sh.  
 Francis Stephens 1 sh.  
 Nicholas Ide 1 sh.  
 Richard Whittaker 1 sh.  
 Nathaniel Pecke 1 sh.  
 Israel Pecke 1 sh.  
 Jonah Palmer 1 sh.  
 Robert Miller 1 sh.  
 Nathaniel Paine 1 sh. ( $\frac{1}{2}$  of it he bought of Richard Bowen Sen. and the other, of

Jeremiah Wheaton.)	John Lovell 1 sh.
Joanna Ide of New Norwich	Eldad Kinsley 1 sh.
halfe a share.	—
John Savage $\frac{1}{2}$ sh.	
Thomas Ormsby $\frac{1}{2}$ sh. (bought	The aforesaid List and the
of Richard Bowen Sen.)	preface to it was universally
Jacob Ormsby $\frac{1}{2}$ sh. (that was	agreed upon at a Meeting of
his mother's.)	the Purchasers, May 28th
John Polley 1 sh. (that he had	1672 to be entered into the
of his father Jon. Bosworth.	Booke of Records for the
William Allen of Prudense* 1	North Purchased Lands.
sh. he bought of Nathaniel	This attested to by me,
Paine.	<i>William Carpenter, Jr.</i>
	Clerke.

This List of Proprietors, as the reader perceives, was made in 1672, by a committee chosen for that purpose.

The first division of lands in the North Purchase was made June 22nd. 1653. This division was confined exclusively to Meadow land. It appears by the following extracts from the town Records of Rehoboth that the Court had made a grant of the meadows in the N. Purchase before the rest of the land was granted.

February 23d, 1657. At a town meeting lawfully warned, it was voted that all the Meadows lying on the North side of the Town, which were given and granted to the Town by the Court, shall be laid out according to person and estate.

At the same time those men whose names are here subscribed have promised to go to see what meadows they can find on the North side of our Town, that they may notify our town, to their best judgment, what quantity there may be of it, and 'this they promise to do freely on their own charge.' Wm. Carpenter Senior will go 3 days on his own charge, and if he go any more he is to be paid for it. Wm. Sabin, 1 day; Lieut. Hunt 2 days; Joseph Peck 1 day; John Peck 1 day; Henry Smith 1 day; Wm. Bucklin 2 days; Robert Fuller 1 day; John Read 1 day; Thomas Cooper Junior 1 day; Francis Stephens 1 day.

At the same time, those men whose names are here subscribed are accepted of the freemen of the town to take up their freedom, viz:—Joseph Peck, John Peck, Henry Smith,

---

\* Probably Providence.

Robert Fuller, John Fitch, Steven Paine, Jonathan Bliss, Wm. Bucklin, Rice Leonard. Several of these persons afterwards removed to Attleborough.

June 22d, 1658. It was voted, that all the meadow that lies upon the North side of the town, that hath been visited by certain men according to the town's order, shall be lotted out, according to person and estate.

14 of the 9th month 1661. Lieut. Hunt, and Wm. Sabin were chosen to confer with Mr. Willet to know what he hath done about the North side of the town in the behalf of the town.

The 28 of the 5 mo. 1662. It was voted that John Woodcock\* should have two rods of land to build a small house on for himself and his family to be in on the Lord's day in some convenient place near the meeting house; and Goodman Paine and Lieut. Hunt were chosen to see where the most convenient place might be for it.

1658 June 22d. "At a town meeting lawfully warned Lots were drawn for the meadows that lie on the North side of the town, according to person and estate."

April 18, 1666. It was voted by the town that the late purchasers of land upon the north side of our town shall bear forty shillings in a rate of 5 £. and so proportionable in all other public charges.

It was also voted that there should be a three railed fence set up and maintained between the late purchased land on the north side of the town to be set up on all the end of the plain from Goodman Buckland's lands to the mill river, and every man that is interested in the said purchased Lands to bear an equal proportion in the aforesaid fence according to their proportion of Lands.

It was also voted to make choice of a Committee for the settling and stating of the late purchased Lands on the north side of our town, viz: whether such, as at present seem questionable, are true proprietors of the aforesaid lands;—and the Committee chosen were Capt. Willet with the towns-

---

\* Afterwards of Attleborough.

men and those that stand engaged for the payment of the aforesaid purchased Lands. The Committee reported April 23d, 1666.

It was also voted by the town that Mr. Goodman Martin shall enjoy a spot of fresh meadow that lies on the north side of the town lying at the end of the Great Plain, during his life and his wife's, and at their decease to return to the town.

At the same time it was agreed between the town and Capt. Willet, that for the forty acres of meadow that he is to have to his farm, on the north side of the town, he is by agreement made with the town to have high Squisset and Low Squisset, and the bounds of the said Squisset's meadows to be according to the sight of the Surveyors the day that they laid out his farm, that is, Henry Smith and William Carpenter ; and he is also to have a piece of meadow at the Seven Mile River near unto the going out at the highway, and six acres of meadow at the Ten Mile River, and what there wants of the six acres in quality is to be made up in quantity—the said six acres of meadow on the Ten Mile River lies by the old highway as we go into the Bay.

'April 23d 1666. The Committee that was chosen by the town April 18th 1666, at a town meeting, for the stating and settling of the late purchased lands, upon the North side of our town, the aforesaid committee being met together this twenty third of April, we see cause that there shall be seventy six whole shares and equal purchasers in the aforesaid Lands, and six persons that have half shares, which we see cause to add to the seventy six whole shares, so that the whole number of shares amounts to seventy nine shares.'

May 19th 1666. At a town meeting lawfully warned, the town concluded to have a meeting upon the last Tuesday in June, to consider of the meadows on the north side of the town, how they may be disposed of for this present year ; it is therefore agreed by this town, that no man shall mow a load or a part of a load of grass, before the town hath disposed of them, upon the penalty of twenty shillings the load or part of a load.

Oct. 16th 1666. At a town meeting it was concluded, that the purchased lands on the north side of the town shall be divided between this and the first of May next ensuing.

It was also voted by the town that no person shall fall any trees upon the aforesaid lands on the north side of our town before the said lands be divided, upon the penalty of ten shillings for every tree so fallen.

The same day John Doggett, John Woodcock, and John Titus were chosen by the town to see what timber trees are fallen on the late purchased lands on the north side of our town, and they shall have the forfeiture for their pains, and the trees to those that the land shall fall to.

June 22d 1667. At a town meeting it was voted by the town that the meadows lying on the north side of the town shall be for this present year, as they were the last year.

April 10th 1668. The town chose a Committee to go and view the meadows that are in the North Purchase and to acre them out, to devide them into three score and eighteen parts and a half, and to mark and bound out each part and put in such swamps as in their prudence they think meet, to be laid out in the said division—provided they do it equally as they can. The said committee are Anthony Perry, Philip Walker, Thomas Willmot, \* Nicholas Ide; to be paid by the whole company of purchasers.

May 13th 1668. The town made an agreement with Goodman Allen that he is to have the twenty acres of Meadow that is laid out by Ensign Smith at Sinecheticonet, and the Meadow called the Parson's Meadow, and all that is within his farm, for his thirty acres of meadow that he purchased of Major Winslow—and also for his full share of meadow on the North Purchase.

It was also voted that the rates upon the North side of the town be lowered, and part taken off, that is to say, whereas the lands upon the N. Purchase paid 40 shillings of 5 pounds in all rates, that now the said lands shall pay 20 shillings in 5 pounds until the town see cause to alter it.

---

\* Now Wilmarth.

May 26th 1668. It was voted that John Woodcock shall have the meadow upon the ten mile river between Capt. Willet's meadow and his own Meadow, and another piece that the townsmen shall appoint him that were chosen by the town to acre the meadows in the North Purchase, for two shares of meadow on the N. Purchase.

The 26th of May 1668, lots were drawn for the meadows † in the North Purchase.

The first division of general lands was granted by the proprietors at a meeting held Feb. 9th 1668. Lots were drawn for this division March 18th, 1668-9. The previous divisions had been confined to meadow land.

'At a town meeting lawfully warned Feb. 9th 1668, it was voted that there should be Fifty acres of upland laid out on the north side of the town to every share, speedily; and the rest to be laid out with as much conveniency as may be.'

It was voted that there should be a committee chosen to view where there is good land for the laying out of a division of lands on the north purchase, and that the aforesaid fifty acres to a share should be forthwith laid out, and then lots to be drawn by the aforesaid purchasers according to the agreement.

At a town meeting lawfully warned the 18th of March 1668-9, 'It was voted that there should be fifty acres of land laid out to a share on the North purchased lands.'

It was also provided that the purchasers should draw lots for their choice; and that each one should choose his lands successively according to his turn, and give notice to the next in turn; and that if any neglect or refuse to make choice and lay out his land in his turn, for the space of three days, after notice given him, he should wait until all others had made choice in regular order.

At this meeting a Committee of eight were chosen, any two of whom might act, to see that these rights should not be laid out so as to interfere with highways, previous divisions of meadows, or other lotments. This Committee were William

---

† Granted by the Court previous to the purchase.

Sabin, Nicholas Peck, Samuel Newman, James Reddeway, Thomas Willmott, Samuel Peck, Lieut. Hunt, Joseph Buckland. Nine purchasers entered a protest against the manner of laying out the lands by *choosing*, viz. Capt. Willett, Mr. Myles, Will. Sabin, Mr. Brown, Dea. Cooper, John Miller, Sen. John Peren, Sen. George Kendricke, Will. Carpenter.

'The Names of those that drew for a Division on the North Purchase 18th March 1668-9.'

John Titus	Robert Joanes	John Read Jun.
Joseph Buckland	Will. Buckland	Mr. Newman
John Ormsby	James Gillson	Rich. Martin
Children's Lands *	Israil Peck	John Butterworth
Nathl. Paine	Anth. Perry	George Kendrick
Goody Hide	Eldad Kingsley	John Lowell
Rice Leonard	Tho. Cooper Jun.	Thomas Grant
John Allin Jun.	Mr. Myles	Mr. Brown
Nicholas Peck	Richard Bemis Jr.	Nath. Peck
Ichabod Miller Jun.	John Fitch	George Robinson
Robert Wheaton	Joseph Carpenter	Jonathan Fuller
John Doggett	Preserved Abel	Jonathan Bosworth
Deacon Cooper	John Woodcock	Sam. Peck
Phillip Walker	John Allen Sen.	Robert Fuller
Tho. Read	Nich. Ide	Nath. Paine, Jr.
Joseph Peck	Capt. Willett	Richard Whittaker
John Read Sen.	James Reddeway	Sam. Carpenter
Jonathan Bliss	Sam. Newman	Edward Hall
Roger Amidowne	Stephen Paine Sen.	Nicholas Tanner
Stephen Paine Jun.	Jona. Palmer	John Savage
Thomas and Jacob	Robert Miller	Will. Saben
Ormsby	Tho. Willmot	Will. Carpenter
Richard Bullock	Gilbert Brooks	Sampson Mason
Daniel Smith	Wid. Carpenter	John Peck
John Kingsley	Left. Hunt	Ben. Buckland
Obadiah Bowing	Jaret Ingraham	Hen. Smith
John Peren Sen.	Francis Stephens	Sam. Luther

Complaints were often made that the lands in the N. Purchase were rated or assessed too high. There is the following record on this subject.

At a meeting of proprietors of the North Purchase the 26th Aug. 1670, it was voted that the townsmen should choose three men to discuss and also to end any difference with such per-

---

\* Children of Alexander Winchester, deceased.

sons as are chosen by the complainers of the provisions of the Rates. The time set to meet was this day s'en'nit at the meeting house; and if not ended to attend the next Court at Plymouth to defend and answer such complaints as are made against the rating of these lands.

A mile and a half on the south side of this town was granted to Rehoboth by order of Court, June 1668.

June 1668. This Court have ordered that a tract of land containing a mile and a half lying on the North side of the town of Rehoboth is allowed to be the proper right of the said township. And for such lands as are lying betwixt the Bay line and it is to be accounted within the Constablerick of Rehoboth, until the Court shall order it otherwise. And that such farms as lyeth within the said liberties shall be responsible in point of rating at the Colony's disposal.—*Old Col. Rec.*

There is the following vote concerning this tract in Rehoboth Records.

Nov. 8th 1670. At a town meeting lawfully warned it was voted that the line should be forthwith run between the North Purchase and the Mile and a half given to the town for enlargement.

The Committee were Lieut. Hunt and Ensign Smith, Nicholas Peck and Will. Carpenter.

Committees were also chosen to see that no timber on the North side should be fallen or drawn away. Great difficulty was experienced in preventing the loss of timber on the undivided lands.

Dec. 26th 1670. It was voted that there should be a town meeting this day fortnight about 10 of the clock in the morning, and that there should be a committee chosen to draw up such propositions as they think will be most expedient for the settling of the differences on the north side of the town concerning those lands, considering that all the purchasers of the land have not yet given them, Mr. Brown engaging to give notice to all the proprietors of those lands that dwell at Swansea; and that these propositions be tendered at the said town meeting, that if it were the will of God, there might be a unanimous agreement. The committee chosen were Lieut.

Hunt, Ensign Smith, Nathaniel Paine, Nicholas Peck and Anthony Perry.

Nov. 23d 1670. A committee was chosen to meet the Treasurer of Taunton to settle the bounds between the North Purchase and Taunton North Purchase. Committee were Ensign Smith, Wim. Sabin, Wm. Carpenter.

At a meeting of the Proprietors, May 28th 1672, It was voted, that for the comfortable and peaceable settlement of the lands and meadows on the North side of the town ;—whereas there has been great dissatisfaction in respect of the unequal division of meadows ;—and, forasmuch as there was a Committee chosen in the year 1668 for the bounding of the meadows betwixt the Tens ;—there shall be a new committee added to them, to make diligent search and take a deliberate view of the meadows and swamps within all the several Tens, with power to add to those Tens which needed amendment, and bound them all ; and also to redress any grievance which any particular person suffers. This order is not to take place till after six months. It was provided that the said committee should bound all the Tens before any more upland lots are laid out, if they do it within two months.

At a meeting of Purchasers Feb. 18th 1684, it was voted that there should be a division of fifty acres to a share in the North Purchase ; Wm. Carpenter was chosen Surveyor to lay it out. Voted that there should be a meeting of the Purchasers to draw lots for said Division the last Tuesday of June next ensuing. Accordingly at a meeting held June 29th 1685 lots were drawn for said fifty acres of upland among 83 persons.

At a Proprietor's Meeting Oct. 31st 1699, it was voted that there should be two divisions of lands in the North Purchase forthwith laid out to the said proprietors according to their rights in said lands, i. e. fifty acres to a whole share in both divisions, viz : 25 acres to the first division, and 25 acres to the second division ; and he that is first in the first division shall be last in the second division, and so on.

At their next meeting Nov. 7th 1699, the proprietors drew

lots for the new division. They had increased at this time to 133 in number.

In the year 1694 the inhabitants of the North Purchase were incorporated into a township by an Act of the General Court of Massachusetts. \*

*The following is the Act of Incorporation.*

AN ACT for granting a township within the County of Bristol to be called Attleborough.

WHEREAS there is a certain tract of land commonly known by the name of North Purchase, lying within the County of Bristol, containing in length about ten miles from Patucket River to the bounds of Taunton, † and extending about eight miles in breadth from the line or boundary betwixt the two late Colonies of Massachusetts and Plymouth, to the bounds of the town of Rehoboth; being a convenient tract for a township, and more than thirty families already settled thereupon; For the better encouragement and settlement of said Plantation:

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That henceforth the said tract of land as above described, and bounded by the township of Taunton and Rehoboth, (no way to intrench upon either of their rights) be and shall be a township, and called by the name of Attleborough; and shall have and enjoy all such immunities, privileges, and powers, as generally other townships within this Province have and do enjoy.

---

\* Previous to this the N. Purchase was within the jurisdiction, but not within the chartered limits of Rehoboth. The inhabitants were subjected to the municipal authority, and had all the rights of freemen of that town. It was, properly, a plantation of Rehoboth. It was ordered by Plymouth Court to be within the jurisdiction of that town until it should be incorporated July 5th 1671. 'The Court have ordered that the North Purchase (so called) shall lie unto the town of Rehoboth, until it comes to be a township; and in the mean time to bear the seventh part of all the rates that shall be levied for the public charges of that town; and when the said Purchase shall become a Township by itself, then the said township of Rehoboth to be eased in their rates.'—*Old Col. Records.*

† Taunton North Purchase.

*Provided*, That it be not in prejudice of any former grant.

*Provided also*, That the Inhabitants of the said place do continue under the power and discretion of the Selectmen, Assessors, and Constables of Rehoboth (whereunto they were formerly annexed) as well refering to any assessments and arrears thereof, as all other things proper to the duty of Selectmen, Assessors and Constables, respectively; until they are supplied with such officers among themselves, according to the directions in the law in that case made and provided.

The boundaries described in the preceding Act included the present town of Attleborough and Cumberland, R. I. embracing a very extensive tract of land. The number of inhabitants at this time could not much exceed a hundred and eighty. They were mostly settled in the Southerly and Westerly parts of the town. These families were scattered over a considerable space; many had been here from an early period. Of the early settlements more will be said hereafter.

The country was then mostly covered with forests, interspersed however with a good supply of natural meadow, which was then considered the most valuable kind of land.

The inhabitants increased rapidly, and soon penetrated into various parts of the town.

A few extracts from the early records of the town, illustrating the character of the times, will be interesting to the present generation.

The first town meeting on record appears to have been held May 11th 1696, two years after the incorporation.\* At this meeting the town chose Mr. John Woodcock and Mr. John Rogers late of Bristol as agents "to manage our concerns in matters relating to that part of our township commonly called the Mile and Half, according to our petition and other copies which are in the hands of Mr. Henry Derens Clerk to the House of Representatives, and did further appoint and empower Mr. John Woodcock to agree with and empower said Mr. Rogers and take care to help him to such papers as may most

---

\* There must, however, have been a previous meeting and a choice of officers—of which no record is preserved.

concern our business, for the promoting of matters relating to our township."

At the same meeting three Assessors were chosen for the ensuing year, viz. Israil Woodcock, Thomas Tingley and Samuel Titus.

The next town meeting was held Nov. 23d 1696, at which the town authorized the Selectmen to make a Rate for paying the town's debts, which amounted to £.5. 15 s. 1 d. At the same time several individuals engaged to pay certain sums 'by way of free gift towards the building of a Meeting House,' and desired their names and sums might be entered accordingly.

	£. s.		£. s.
Mr. John Woodcock -	1. 00.	Thomas Woodcock -	0. 10.
John Lane - - -	1. 00.	George Robinson - -	1. 00.
Israil Woodcock -	0. 10.	David Freeman - - -	1. 00.

March 22d 1696—7. The town 'taking into consideration, who are by law allowed to vote in town meetings, and finding so few allowed to vote, ordered that 'all the inhabitants and town Dwellers' should have a right to vote in said meetings.— At this time town officers were chosen for the year ensuing, viz. 'Mr. John Woodcock, Anthony Sprague, Daniel Jenks, Jonathan Fuller, Thomas Tingley, Selectmen; Anthony Sprague, town Clerk; Israil Woodcock, Constable; Nicholas Ide and Joseph Cowel, Surveyors; Henry Sweet, Tithingman; Thomas Tingley and Samuel Titus, Fence viewers; John Woodcock, Anthony Sprague and Daniel Jenks, Assessors; John Lane, Grand juryman; Benjamin Force for the Jury of trials in April next at the Quarter Sessions at Bristol.'

May 10, 1697. At a town meeting for the choice of an 'Assembly man for the Great and General Court' the inhabitants voted not to send a man 'by reason the town was excused by law.'

July 12th 1697. The town voted to have a Pound made according to law upon a piece of undivided land between the lands of Daniel Shepperson and James Jillson near the Bay Road.

The inhabitants were often disturbed by Indians and others hunting and strolling about the town and insulting the inhab-

itants. In relation to these disturbances the town passed the following orders :

Jan'y. 31st 1697 or 8. At a town meeting legally warned for the making of 'some town orders or by-laws touching persons disorderly coming into town who have no rights or lands in the same but are strangers and foreigners,' the town passed the following orders: 'It is ordered by the inhabitants of Attleborough and voted in said meeting, that no person that is a stranger shall be received as an inhabitant without the consent or approbation of said town, or sufficient security given to the town by him or them that shall take in or harbor any person contrary to this order; moreover, the Selectmen are appointed to take due care and sufficient security, in the behalf of the town, of and for all such persons as shall receive in or harbor any stranger or foreigner; or to give order and warning to such stranger or foreigner to depart the town, according as the law directs, and that with all convenient speed after knowledge or notice given of the same; so observing from time to time that the town be not charged with unnecessary charges.'

2d. 'The second order or by-Law was touching Indian foreigners and strangers that have been complained of for uncivil carriages and behaviour towards some of the inhabitants of this town, for the prevention of which the inhabitants being desired to give their advice, by joint consent have voted and passed this Act, That no foreign Indian or stranger should be allowed to come into town being armed under hunting pretences nor suffered in the same to abide in drinkings and shootings at unseasonable times of night and threatenings to several persons, which is contrary to the law of this Province, and disturbing to several of this town; neither is any person or persons whatsoever within this town allowed to take in or harbor Indian or Indians armed other than such as hath been allowed or shall be allowed, without the unanimous consent of the inhabitants, at any time hereafter, but every person or persons, transgressing against this order or by-law, shall pay a fine of five shillings, each day, for the use of the poor of this town for every such offence.'

March 4th 1699 or 1700, in town meeting Daniel Shepperson gave a piece of ground to set a Pound on 'at a place commonly known and called Red Rock Hill by the road-side by a pine tree, which pound is to be built 30 feet square and finished by the last of June 1700.'

May 13th 1700. Voted not to send a Representative for the same reason that was assigned at the first meeting.

March 25th 1701. In town meeting voted and appointed a 'Training place to be on the South side of David Freeman's house, between the two ways, viz. the Bay road and the road that leadeth to Nicholas Ide's house.' At the same time the town 'did by major vote appoint the last Tuesday in March at 9 o'clock A. M. to be their Election Day annually for choosing town officers according to law, without any further warning, so to continue till further order.'

Feb. 9th 1702—3. It was voted that Ensign Nicholas Ide and Anthony Sprague with the Selectmen be a Committee to agree in behalf of our town concerning the lines and bounds between Attleborough, Dorchester, and Wrentham. It was also voted that the Selectmen should make a town Rate for the payment of town debts, and that a quarter part of said rate be levied upon the polls, and the rest upon the estates; and that said rate shall be paid in Indian corn at 2 s. 6 d. per bushel, or rye at 3 s. 6 d. per bushel, or oats at 1 s. 6 d. per bushel, or in money.

May 14th 1703. Voted not to send a representative by reason they were so few in number and excused by law.

The first inhabitant within the original limits of Attleborough was the celebrated William Blackstone, who was also the first settler and sole proprietor of *Shawmut*, now the beautiful city of Boston. Every thing relating to the life of this singular man must be interesting, not only to the people of this town, but to all who feel an interest in the ancient history of the Colonies.

He came to this country from England about the year 1625, and settled first at Boston the Indian name of which was *Shawmut*. Here he remained alone, until the arrival of Governor Winthrop's company, in June 1630. They at first lo-

cated themselves at Charlestown; but finding the water bad, and 'liking that plain neck that was then called Blackstone's Neck,'\* they soon removed, by invitation, to the peninsula, where they found a good spring of water. Mr. Blackstone had been, in England, a clergyman of the established church. But he lived in an age of religious bigotry, intolerance, and persecution; and "not being able," as he said, "to endure the power of the Lords Bishops," he left his native land and sought an asylum in the wilds of America, where he might enjoy his own opinions unmolested. After residing a few years with the new settlers of *Shawmut*, he found the same intolerant and overbearing spirit among his new associates; and becoming "discontented with the power of the Lords Brethren," he was compelled to seek another retreat. In 1634, he sold his right and title in the peninsula to the inhabitants of Boston, each one paying him six shillings, and some of them, more. A reservation was made for him of about six acres where his house stood.

The Peninsula of Boston was then called Blackstone's Neck, the whole of which he claimed as his property; and this claim was recognized by the new settlers. With the purchase money he bought a 'stock of cows,' which he carried with him to his new settlement on the banks of the Pawtucket river.

The following document, quoted in Shaw's History of Boston, gives some of the particulars of this purchase.

'The deposition of John Odlyn, aged about 82 years; Robert Walker, aged about 78 years; Francis Hudson, aged about 66 years; and William Lytherland, aged 76 years.—These deponents being antient dwellers and inhabitants of the town of Boston, from the time of the first planting thereof, do jointly testify and depose, that in or about the year of our Lord sixteen hundred and thirty four, the then present inhabitants of said town, (of whom the Hon. John Winthrop, Esq. Governor of the Colony, was chiefe,) did treate and agree with Mr. William Blackstone for the purchase of his estate and right in any lands lying within the said neck of land, called Boston, and

---

\* Capt. Clap, May 1630.

for said purchase agreed that every householder should pay six shillings, which was accordingly collected—none paying less, some considerably more; and the said sum was paid to Mr. Blackstone, to his full content. Reserving unto himself about six acres of land on the point, commonly called Blackstone's Point, on part whereof his then dwelling-house stood. After which purchase, the town laid out a place for a Training Field, which ever since, and now is used for that purpose, and for the feeding of cattle: Walker and Lytherland further testify, that Mr. Blackstone bought a stock of cowes with the money he received, and removed near Providence, where he lived till the day of his death.' Sworn to the 10th of June, 1684, before S. Bradstreet, Governor, and Samuel Sewall, Assistant.

Mr. Blackstone received £30 for his right to the Peninsula, as appears by the following record. The '10th day of the 9 mo. 1634,' Voted that a rate be made, viz. 'a rate for £30 to Mr. Blackstone.'\*

In 1635, he removed to another retreat, still farther in the wilderness,—beyond the tyranny of man. This place was on the banks of Pawtucket river which now bears his name, and was within the ancient limits of Attleborough, in that part called the Gore, now Cumberland, R. I. This was about ten years before the settlement of Rehoboth and a few years before that of Providence. In this solitary retreat he built his house, cultivated his garden and planted his orchard. His house and garden he surrounded with a park, which was his daily walk. His residence was on a hill near the Blackstone river; and his orchard, just east of the hill. Here he remained for many years in entire seclusion from the world,—here was none to disturb his lonely retreat. He was furnished with a library; and nature and study charmed his solitary hours. He thus seated himself, for life, in peaceful solitude on the banks of the Blackstone.

---

\* Reckoning March the 1st month, this assessment was made in December—the purchase, of course, was made previous to this date; and Blackstone, in all probability, removed early in the subsequent spring.

His house he called 'Study Hall,' and the eminence, on which it was built, was named 'Study Hill,'—which name it still retains. This place\* is about three miles above Pawtucket village, where the late Col. Simon Whipple resided. The Indian name of the place was *Wawepoonseag*. This name is mentioned in the Plymouth Records in describing the boundaries of the North Purchase in 1661—'From Rehoboth ranging upon Patucket River, to a place called by the natives *Wawepoonseag*,† where one Blackstone now sojourneth.'

During his residence here, in 1659, Mr. Blackstone married the widow Sarah Stevenson.‡ She died about the middle of June, 1673.§ He survived his wife only about two years, and died May 26th, 1675,‡ a few weeks before the commencement of the great Indian War, thus having escaped witnessing the horrors of that awful period, and the complete destruction which awaited his 'fair domain.' He had lived in New England about fifty years, nearly ten years at *Shawmut* (now Boston) and forty at this place. He must have been quite advanced at the time of his death—probably not far from eighty.

\* His title to the lands which he occupied was respected by the Plymouth Government, who ordered them recorded to him.

† March 5th, 1671. Mr. Stephen Paine, Sen. of Rehoboth, and Mr. Nicholas Tanner were appointed by the Court to see Mr. Blackstone's land laid forth according to the grant.—*Old Col. Rec.*

His estate consisted of about 200 acres.

‡ This is supposed by a writer in the Mass. His. Coll. to be properly the name of a brook, now called Abbott's Run, which enters the river not far from Mr. Blackstone's residence.

‡ 'Mr. William Blackstone was married to Sarah Stevenson, widow, the 4th of July, 1659, by John Endicott, Governor.'—*Town Records of Boston*. She was the widow of John Stevenson of Boston, who had, by her, at least three children—Onesimus, born 26th 10th mo. 1643; John, born — 7th mo. 1645; and James, born Oct. 1st, 1653. His second son, John Stevenson, lived with his mother after her marriage with Mr. Blackstone, and, after their decease, continued at the same place during the remainder of his life.

‡ 'Mrs. Sarah Blackstone the wife of Mr. William *Blaxston*, was buried about the middle of June, 1673.'—*Rehoboth Records*.

Many of the ancient records mention the day of the burial, but not of the deaths of persons.

‡ 'Mr. William *Blackston* buried the 28th of May, 1765.'—*ib.*

Around him was still a wilderness when death snatched him from the sylvan retreat which he loved ; but, (though the footsteps of men were fast approaching,) how would he be astonished to behold the region around it (the place which he once thought secure from the haunt of men) now swarming with an industrious and thriving population ! How would he grieve to find the stream, whose placid waters as they flowed by his dwelling he delighted to contemplate, now interrupted by numerous water-works, and the silence which then reigned around him, now disturbed by the buzz of thousands of spindles ! To what ignoble purposes is his classic stream now devoted !—What a contrast ! It is a change which the peace-loving spirit of Blackstone could not endure. To enjoy that solitude which was congenial to his taste, he would now be compelled to seek a new abode beyond the banks of the Mississippi.

Blackstone was by no means a misanthrope, but a man of natural benevolence, who took this mode of indulging his love for solitude, and securing the unrestrained enjoyment of his own sentiments. He did not shun man because he hated him, but because he loved solitude more than society. He was fond of study and contemplation, and here he could enjoy both. Possessing an independent and original mind, he could not brook the dogmatical and persecuting spirit of the age ; and to escape from its influence he fled to the wilds of America.

He was not idle, though in solitude. He cultivated his garden and reared his orchard with his own hands ; and is said to have been devoted to his books.—Though meditative in his habits,—yet cheerful in disposition. He was acquainted with Roger Williams, the father of Rhode Island—a kindred spirit ;—and frequently went to visit him, and occasionally preached at Providence and the neighboring towns.

He was a man of great eccentricity ; and often exhibited in his conduct the most ludicrous oddities. Among other anecdotes, it is related of him that he had tamed a bull, (to supply the place of a horse,) on which he used to ride into Providence to visit his friends. ‘He was also remarkable,’ says Mr. Baylies, \* ‘for his love of children.’

\* *Memoirs of Plymouth Colony*,—which is a work of great interest—embodying a large amount of historical information on the Old Colony.

At a late centennial celebration in Boston, under the direction of the Mass. His. Society, a present of apples was sent to their table from Cumberland, said to have grown on the trees which grew from the sprouts of those in Blackstone's orchard. Some of the trees planted by his own hands were living a hundred and forty years after they were set out.

He left one son John Blackstone, who, it is supposed, 'settled somewhere near New Haven.' Of him history says little or nothing. But by diligent research I have ascertained a few particulars.

He was a minor when his father died, and had guardians appointed by the Court.† He lived on his inheritance till 1692 when he sold his lands to David Whipple,‡ and soon after removed to Providence, and, for a while, contented himself with the humble occupation of a shoemaker. There,§ it is probable, he married his wife Katharine, and continued to reside till 1718, when he returned to Attleborough, and, with his wife, was legally warned out of town.¶ He is presumed to be the person mentioned in the records, as no other of that name has been known in this part of the country. It is gen-

---

† 'June 1st 1675. Lieut. Hunt, Ensign Smith and Mr. Daniel Smith are appointed and authorized by the Court to take some present care of the estate of Mr. William Blackstone deceased, and of his son now left by him; and to see that the next Court he do propose a man to the Court to be his guardian; which in case he do neglect, the Court will then see cause to make choice of one for him.'—*Old Col. Rec.*

'Oct. 27th 1675. Mr. Nathaniel Paine and Mr. Daniel Smith are appointed and approved by the Court, to be guardians unto John Blackstone, the son of Mr. William Blackstone deceased.'—*ib.*

‡ The original Deeds, with John Blackstone's signature, are still in existence, and are in the possession of Mr. John Whipple of Cumberland. The first is dated Sept. 10th 1692. He spells his name *Blaxton*, which was undoubtedly, at the time, the true orthography.

§ There is no record of his marriage in this town.

¶ For what cause does not appear, but may be conjectured. He had probably squandered his property, for, tradition says, he inherited but a small share of his father's prudence.

erally supposed by historians that the family is now extinct.— But it is not certain, however, (though probable) that the blood of Blackstone ‘runs not in the viens of a single human being.’ There is some reason to believe that his son emigrated to Connecticut, and settled on a neck of land, not far from New Haven, where, it is possible, some of his posterity may exist in the female line. I have been informed that there was a family of that name who lived there in seclusion for many years.

His son-in-law John Stevenson came with his mother when she married Mr. Blackstone, being about 14 years old, and lived with them till their death.\* He came into possession of a part of his father-in-law’s estate, as appears by the following order of Plymouth Court, passed June 10th 1675, about two weeks after Blackstone’s decease.

‘WHEREAS the Court is informed that one whose name is John Stevenson, son-in-law to Mr. William Blackstone, late deceased, was very helpful to his father and mother in their life-time, without whom they could not have subsisted as to a good help and instrument thereof, and he is now left in a low and mean condition, and never was in any measure recompensed for his good service aforesaid, and if, (as it is said at least) his father-in-law engaged to his mother at his marriage with her, that he should be considered with a competency of land out of the said Blackstone’s land then lived on, which hath never yet been performed; and forasmuch as the personal estate of the said William Blackstone is so small and inconsiderable, that he the said Stephenson cannot be relieved out of it; this Court, therefore, in consideration of the premises, do order and dispose fifty acres of land unto the said John Stevenson, out of the lands of the said William Blackstone, and five acres of meadow, to be laid out unto him by Ensign Henry Smith, and Mr. Daniel Smith and Mr. Nathaniel Paine, according as they shall think meet, so as it may be most commodious to him or as little prejudicial to the seat of Mr. William

---

\* There is an error in a short sketch of Mr. Blackstone in the Mass. His. Coll. where it is said that he left two children, a son, ‘and a daughter married to John Stephenson.’ The latter, as already mentioned, was the son of his wife by her first husband.

Blackstone as may be. By order of the Court for the Jurisdiction of New Plymouth.\*—*Old Col. Rec.*

\* The bounds of this grant are recorded in the Records of the North Purchase, Book 1st p. 47. Extracts are made for the gratification of those who may wish to know the situation of his lands.

‘*Imp.* Fifty acres of upland lying upon Patucket River, most of it upon the South Neck, being part of that land that was left for Mr. William Blackstone and granted by the Court to John Stevenson; bounded to the eastward the land of John Fitch and the Common; westerly, Patucket River, and Southerly; to the northward, the land of John Blackstone; it being 106 rods long.’

The five acre lot of meadow mentioned in the grant is also recorded as laid out by the Commissioners.

1st. Two acres of meadow adjoining to the said lands lying in two pieces; one piece within the former tract of land, and the other by the river side upon the Southernmost end of it.

2d. ‘Three acres of fresh meadow lying at the northeast corner of the meadow commonly known by the name of Blackstone’s Great Meadow, ‡ from a white oak tree marked, and so through the breadth of the meadow to the Run, the Run bounding it to the northards; westward, the meadow of John Blackstone: eastward, the swamp; southward, the upland.’

There is another tract which he probably purchased. ‘Fifty acres of upland, more or less, bounded east the land of Ensign Nich. Peck and Rob. Miller; north, the land of Sam. Carpenter; west, a highway four rods wide (between John Blackstone’s land and this lot) and a little piece of common land; south, coming near John Fitch’s grave, to the Common.

There is to be taken out of this lot a highway 2 rods wide next to Sam. Carpenter’s land to meet with the highway at the east end of said Carpenter’s lot.’

Likewise 10 acres of land, allowed to John Stevenson by the king’s jury, for land for highways, taken out of his land, lying on the southerly side of Abbott’s Run, &c.

Another record of land commences thus: ‘Likewise two acres of land that I took up adjoining to my own land, at the southerly end of it, which I had in exchange with my brother John Blackstone, &c.

To gratify the curious, the boundaries of John Blackstone’s lands are added, by which the precise location of his father’s estate may be ascertained.

*Imp.* A hundred and fifty acres of upland, swamp, and meadow ground, more or less, containing the West Plain (commonly so called) and land adjacent; bounded, to the northward, the land of Isaac Allen; to the south-

---

‡ Often called in the Records The Parson’s Meadow,

Stevenson acquired a taste for solitary life by living with Blackstone, and resided here, (it is believed, alone) till his death. There is no evidence of his ever having been married. His time was devoted to the cultivation of his lands and the pleasures of hunting. He died Sept. 16th, 1695. His brother James Stevenson, of Springfield, was appointed his Administrator; who returned an Inventory, Oct. 11th, 1695, from which it appears that his whole estate was valued at £57.5.2.\*

This is all the account which I can find of the first settler within the bounds of the North Purchase, and of those connected with him. But his name will be preserved in perpetual remembrance, for it is inseparably attached to that noble river which flows past the site of his ancient and solitary dwelling. His name is also transferred to a work of art—to that Canal which bears the wealth and produce of the interior of Massachusetts to the original abode of Roger Williams. The Valley of the Blackstone has become celebrated as a manufacturing district, and contributes, by the advantages of its water power, to the wealth and industry of New England. Hardly could

---

ward, the land of John Stevenson; to the westward, Pawtucket river; to the eastward, the land of John Stevenson, the highway, and the undivided land; there running through it a country highway to Pawtucket river, four rods wide.

*Likewise* a parcel of fresh meadow commonly known by the name of Blackstone's Meadow, being eight acres, bounded to the eastward, the meadow of John Stevenson, &c.

*Likewise* twenty acres (laid out to John Blackstone, granted to him by the king's jury for a way taken through his farm to *Pattucket* River,) running 76 rods N. W. and by W. and 42 rods S. W. and by S. bounded round by the undivided land; this tract lying near the new road to Dedham.

*Likewise* two acres which he had upon exchange with his brother John Stevenson, adjoining to his own farm, on the westerly side of the country highway, next the house; bounded easterly by the highway, westerly his own farm, and southerly by a small run of water; and in consideration of it John Stevenson had two acres of what John Blackstone was to have allowed by the king's jury, for the highway through his land to Providence.

*Records R. N. Purchase, Book 1, page 153.*

---

\* 'His house, lands, and meadows at 150. His gun, cutlass, and cartouch box 10. 18. 0.' &c. &c.

Blackstone—the lover of undisturbed solitude—have dreamed when he forsook the Peninsula of Boston, and pitched his lonely dwelling on the banks of this placid stream, that his peaceful retreat would be so soon the scene of industry and the abode of a numerous population, and its silence broken by the busy works of art! Were his spirit permitted to revisit the scene of his former enjoyments—he would be obliged to penetrate another wilderness—to form a new garden, and plant a new orchard—and to seek in a more distant region of the West a spot congenial to his taste.\*

The place which he chose for his residence is a truly beautiful and romantic spot—such as a recluse and a lover of nature would select. The place where his house stood is a small hill, the surface of which would make an acre or more; on the east is a gradual ascent, but on the west it rises abruptly from the river to the height of 60 or 70 feet; there the Blackstone winds gracefully at its base,† forming a slight curve at a short distance south of the hill. Its summit commands a fine view of the ‘valley of the Blackstone’ to the distance of more than a mile on the South. On the east is a delightful and fertile valley consisting of a few acres, which opens to the south on the borders of the meadow, and is bounded on the east and north east by a gentle eminence, on the top of which runs the ‘Mendon road’ so often mentioned in the ancient land records. This valley was cultivated by the hands of Blackstone; here was his orchard, where are seen the stumps of apple-trees, cut

---

\* Every thing in relation to Blackstone is interesting to the public; I have, therefore, been minute in this description.

It could never have occurred to him, who, to avoid the notice of men, sought the shades of solitude, that future ages would take so deep an interest in his history—that he should be an object of minute research to the antiquarian—and that every circumstance, connected with his life, which could be rescued from the land of oblivion, should be sought out with so much avidity!

†The river, within forty years past, has enlarged its channel at this place and now washes the very base of the hill, as if attracted to the spot by a grateful remembrance of him who first sought its banks and loved its stream, and whose honored name it now bears. The margin of the river was formerly three rods at least west from the hill.

down within a few years, which are said to have grown from the sprouts of the first trees planted by him. His well is still pointed out, at the southern border of this valley ; though now filled up with moss and weeds, the pure water still bubbles up from its fountains. His grave is also designated, though with less certainty ; it is in the orchard, about two rods east from the foot of the hill and north of the well. The 'flat stone which it is said, marked his grave,' is not now visible ; it is either removed or buried under the surface.

One Alexander, who was drowned in the river, was buried, it is said, by the side of Mr. Blackstone. Is it not probable that his wife is also buried at the same place ?

The spot on which he lived, has returned to its original state of nature. Six or seven years ago, a heavy growth of timber trees was cut from this hill ; and its surface is now thickly covered with young and thrifty wood. Oaks of a hundred years have grown on the garden of Blackstone !

The first settlement within the bounds of the present town of Attleborough was in the neighborhood of the Baptist Meeting House, where Hatch's tavern now stands. It was commenced by Mr. John Woodcock and his sons, soon after the first division in 1669. Here he built a public house on the Bay Road ; and laid out lands to the amount of about 300 acres, which afterwards made an excellent farm. At this time and subsequently he took up, in several parts of the town, about 600 acres,\* part on his own shares and the rest on rights which he purchased of Roger Amidowne, James Redeway, Andrew Willett, &c.

His house was occupied for a Garrison. It was licensed in 1670, according to the following record.

'July 5th 1670. John Woodcock is allowed by the Court to keep an Ordinary at the ten mile river (so called) which is in the way from Rehoboth to the Bay ; and likewise enjoined to keep good order, that no unruliness or ribaldry be permitted there.—*Old Col. Rec.*

His name first appears in the Rehoboth records the 28th 4th

---

\* A part of this was on Bungay River, (where Bishop's shop lately stood) which he conveyed to his son Jonathan, with the sawmill thereon standing.

mo. 1647, when he bought the lands of Ed. Patterson. He was admitted a freeman of that town, May 14th 1673.

Woodcock was a man of some consideration in those days—his name frequently appearing in town offices and on committees. June 2d 1691 he was chosen Deputy to the General Court from Rehoboth, and at several other times. He was shrewd, hardy, fearless and adventurous—a character just suited to the times in which he lived, and the circumstances in which he was placed.

He held Indian rights in very low estimation. On one occasion he took the liberty of *paying himself* a debt due to him from a neighboring Indian, without the consent of the debtor, or the intervention of judge, jury, or sheriff—for which achievement he received the following sentence from the Court,—an example of the rigid justice of the Puritans.

‘1654. John Woodcock of Rehoboth, for going into an Indian house and taking away an Indian child and some goods in lieu of a debt the Indian owed him, was sentenced to set in the stocks at Rehoboth an hour on a Training day, and to pay a fine of forty shillings.’

*Old Col. Rec. Court Orders, Book 3d.*

Woodcock had two wives ; Sarah, who died in May 1676, and a second one, Joanna, who survived him. He had a large family of children, some if not all of whose names I have ascertained : (though no record of them is preserved on the books) viz. John, Israil, Nathaniel (killed by the Indians) Jonathan, Thomas ; and at least—three daughters ; one, married to Thomas Esterbrook, one, to Samuel Guild, and another, Deborah, to Benj’n Onion May 24th 1683. There were two others of this name supposed to be children of John Woodcock, viz. Alice, married to Baruck Bucklin, and Mary, married to Jonathan Freeman. There was also a Sarah Woodcock who married Alexander Bolcom.

John Woodcock sen. died Oct. 20, 1701—having arrived at a very advanced age, in spite of many attempts which had been made by the Indians to destroy him. It is said, that after his death the scars of seven bullet holes were counted on his body ! He was an inveterate and implacable enemy to the Indians—

the cause of which will hereafter appear in the notice of some events in Phillip's War. In encounters with them, on several occasions, he ran imminent risks of his life. He was foremost in all enterprises, the object of which was the destruction of the Indians. He was a very useful man as a pioneer in the dangers of a new settlement—being cunning in contrivance, and bold and active in execution.

Woodcock's Garrison\* was a well known place of rendezvous in the great Indian War. It was one in a chain of fortifications extending from Boston to Rhode Island. There was one in Boston; one in Dedham at Ames' corner; Woodcock's in this place; one, it is said, at Rehoboth,† now Seekonk; and another at Newport on the Island; and perhaps others in the intermediate spaces.

This stand, which is now owned and occupied by Col. Hatch, is the oldest in the county of Bristol—a public house having been kept on the spot, without intermission, from July 5th 1670, to this time June 1833—during a period of *one hundred and sixty-three years!* It is situated on the Boston and Providence turnpike. I have been at considerable pains to ascertain the names of the several owners, in succession, and the times at which they purchased—some brief notices of which may be interesting to the reader.

It was established by John Woodcock, as already related in 1670—the land having been laid out and cleared by him for the purpose. He occupied it about 23 years.

Feb. 17th, 1693—4. John Woodcock sen. of Rehoboth, (with Joanna his wife) for £390 money in hand received, conveys to John Devotion of 'Muddy River, formerly of Boston,' a tract of land containing 210 acres, being 'at a place commonly called ten mile river by a highway called Wrentham lane,' &c. 'with the mansion or dwelling house, barn, and all other out housing and buildings (the Smith's shop only except-

---

\*This was probably the only house (excepting immediate neighbors') on the 'Bay road,' between Rehoboth and Dedham—though this was then the main road from R. Island, Bristol and Rehoboth to Boston.

†Situated in the centre of the Great Plains, on the borders of which the first settlements were principally located.

ed standing on the river ;')\* also about 30 acres lying on N. W. side the country road formerly given to his son John Woodcock, bounded by ten mile R. &c. with his son's dwelling house and barn on the same. 'John Devotion took quiet possession of the same, April 9th 1694, in presence of Nathaniel Brentnall, William Chaplin.†

Woodcock laid out the ancient Burying ground near his house. In the above mentioned conveyance is the following reservation. 'Except a small parcel of at least six rods square or the contents thereof, for a burying place in which my wife and several of my children and neighbors are interred, with liberty for my children and neighbors to come upon and make use thereof forever as occasion may be.‡

John Devotion occupied the premises more than 17 years. He left no descendants here ; and after selling his estate removed to Wethersfield, afterwards to Suffield.§ His wife's name was Hannah.

July 10th 1711. John Devotion for £400 money paid, conveys the said farm (containing 280 acres more or less) to John Daggett of Chilmark in Dukes County, Martha's Vineyard,

---

\* A shop now stands on the same spot.

† In this conveyance to Devotion is the following curious item: 'Also, all the said John Woodcock his right to, and privilege in, a house and pasture at Wrentham for accommodation of his family and horses on Sabbath days and other public times, as occasion may be.'

Previous to his removal here, he had a house at Rehoboth for a similar purpose. See page 13. From this and other records it appears that he and his family were very attentive to public worship.

‡ This is the oldest grave yard in the town,—where the first settlers are buried. It is situated on the easterly side of the road opposite the Hotel. The first interment in this place was that of Nathaniel Woodcock who was killed by the Indians in Phillip's War, May 1676, and was buried on the spot where he fell, which is still pointed out in the centre of the grave yard. This cemetery is now in a state of dilapidation—many of the stones have fallen down, and the whole is going rapidly to decay. It is the duty of that neighborhood or the town, (a duty which gratitude demands) to see the ground decently enclosed and the stones erected, that the few memorials which now exist of our early ancestry may be preserved.

§ He had a son John Devotion, a schoolmaster, living in Swansea in 1716.

(the first of that name who settled in this town) with 25 acres on Nine mile R. (except 2 acres, the barn and orchard on it, now in possession of Penticost Blackinton.) 'Also, one whole share in the undivided lands in Attleborough.

April 16th 1722. John Daggett, for £550, sells the same to Alexander Maxcy, 'being his homestead, containing 170 acres in 2 parts on the Ten Mile R. &c. at a place called Mount Hope Hill.\* The said Maxcy died in about a year after this purchase. At the division of his estate (1730) the establishment passed into the hands of his oldest son Josiah Maxcy. After his death in 1772, (if not before) it came into the possession of his son Levi Maxcy, who occupied it till about 1780 when he sold it to Col. Israil Hatch the present occupant.

The old Garrison was torn down in 1806, and a large and elegant building erected on the spot, 58 by 60 feet, 3 stories high.† It thus appears that the first building erected on the place stood one hundred and thirty six years. A great part of the timber was said to be perfectly sound—pierced, however, by many a bullet received in Phillip's War. A relic of this house, it is said, was preserved in the archives of the Mass. His. Soc.

Several families settled near Mr. Blackstone's seat soon after, if not previous to the war.

Another early settlement was at the Falls (so called) now the Falls Factories. The natural advantages of a fine fall of water attracted the settlers to the spot. The banks of rivers were generally selected by the first occupants on account of the 'natural meadows' which they afforded, and which were highly valued at a time when the face of the country was covered with forests.

The first person who laid out lands at the latter place (as near as can be ascertained from the records) was John Daggett of Rehoboth, who, in Oct. 1677, sold 50 acres of it to his

---

\* So called to this day.

† The *original* building only was taken down;—an addition, built at an early period, was moved a little back, where it now stands, 'carved o'er with many a long forgotten name.' A small remnant, one room, of the old Garrison may still be seen adjoining the wood house.

brother Thomas Daggett of Marthas Vineyard. Edward Hall\* also at an early period owned 50 acres here, which he gave by will to his son John, and he sold it to John Stevenson and Samuel Penfield; the latter sold it, in 1686, to Thomas Daggett of Edgartown, and Joseph and Nathaniel Daggett† of Rehoboth. This was the land immediately around the Falls including the privilege. The first mill built there was a 'Corn Mill,' owned or occupied by the above named Joseph Daggett, at what time is not known. This was doubtless the first mill in town. March 30th 1703, the town voted that Jos. Daggett of Rehoboth have the privilege 'that the stream at the Ten Mile River Falls shall go free of all sorts of taxes until a Corn mill has the constant custom of three score families; and if a saw mill be built, that to bear his equal share in public charges in said town.'

Thomas Butler‡ also laid out land near the Mill.

The southeast corner of the town was early inhabited by people from Rehoboth. The borders of the Bay Road which passed through the neighborhood of Newell's and the City were occupied by some of the first settlers. This was the main route from Bristol to Boston, and was the first road in town.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROPRIETORS.

The Proprietors of the Rehoboth North Purchase soon became a distinct body from the town, and kept separate books. Before proceeding to other parts of the history of the town, it may be proper to detail some of the transactions of the Proprietors, which will throw light on our early history, and give a view of the difficulties which they had to encounter in the settlement.

---

\* Then of Rehoboth, previously of Taunton. Admitted a freeman of Massachusetts May 2, 1638. One John Hall was admitted May 14, 1634, and another May 6th, 1635. Edward had 7 children—John born before his father came to Rehoboth,—Samuel, Jeremiah, Thomas, Preserved, Andrew, Benjamin, from 1656 to 1668.

† The last two were the sons of John Daggett the first of Rehoboth.

‡ There were three of the name of Butler in town.

The Proprietors' Books commence in 1672. Previous to this their proceedings were recorded in the Rehoboth town books. A certain company (consisting of inhabitants of Rehoboth) purchased, as already appears a certain tract of land of the Indians, through their agent, and the title was confirmed by the Government,\* which tract was called The Rehoboth North Purchase. There were 82 purchasers or share-holders, 76 of whom had whole shares, and 6, half shares, making 79 whole shares.† They called meetings, (notified according to law) and from time to time granted divisions of so many acres to a share—which were laid out to the shareholders, by metes and bounds, by a committee and surveyor chosen for the purpose, under such regulations and instructions as were established by the company and were recorded by the Clerk in the Proprietors' Books. This constituted a valid right to the lands so recorded. In this way all the original titles to land in this town were obtained. A transfer of a share might be made by deed, a record of the sale being entered in the Proprietors' books. Or, a person might obtain a title to lands by purchasing of a proprietor a right to lay out a certain number of acres in a division already granted, which would be recorded to him in the same manner as to the original owner.

The Grant was first made to such inhabitants of Rehoboth as held a fifty pounds estate and upwards, they having made the purchase; but in 1670 all who were then inhabitants of that town were admitted as proprietors by entering their names, as appears by the following extract from a Court order passed Oct. 7th, 1670.

‘Whereas the lands on the Northerly side of Rehoboth now sold by Deed and passed over to the Proprietors of that town (viz.) to all that hold lands there from a fifty pounds estate and upwards; yet *by mutual agreement amongst themselves* all the inhabitants were taken in to be joint purchasers, it is determined that the names of such as were not comprehended in the above mentioned Deed shall be entered in their town rec-

---

\* No purchase of Indian lands was valid without the grant or confirmation of the Government.

† What consideration was paid for the purchase does not appear.

ords and in the public records of the Colony, to be, if they desire it, as full and equal purchasers and proprietors in those lands as the rest.'

These lands were at first exempted from full taxation, 'to accommodate the poorer sort with land and yet so as not to oppress them as much otherwise.' The Court ordered 'that all the North lands, both farms and else,' should be taxed in a rate separate from the town of Rehoboth, and should pay 30 shillings in a £40 rate to the Colony, and in the same proportion in the Ministerial and other charges, 'until the Court shall see cause otherwise to dispose concerning them, until which time they shall be and remain within the Constablerick of the township of Rehoboth.' Oct. 7, 1670.

The Proprietors sometimes exercised legislative powers, which were, however, to some extent, authorized by Statute.

June 10th 1707. Voted, that all who have lands laid out in the North Purchase and have not renewed their bounds since the 1st of March last, shall, between this date and the last of September next, renew the same, *or forfeit the sum of ten shillings to be recovered as a debt due: the one half to the informer, and the other half to the Proprietors, any one of whom are authorized to prosecute this act.*

At the same meeting it was ordered that all the timber cut on the undivided lands should be forthwith seized; and a committee was appointed to hear and determine by what right it was cut, and if found without good right, then to take the methods of the law in that case provided.

Sept. 16, 1707. Voted that the Committee with the surveyor, shall lay out all needful highways for the Proprietors in said Purchase, and make restitution to persons whose lands are taken for this purpose, in any of the undivided lands.\*

Nov. 1708. The Proprietors chose a committee to look after the northerly bounds of their purchase. At this time commenced the long and tedious contest about the northern boundary of the purchase which was the Old Colony line. The subject was discussed at every meeting, and committees often

---

\* A large proportion of the highways in this town were laid out by the Proprietors, accompanied by the Selectmen.

appointed to devise means of protecting the rights of the purchasers. Petitions were sent to the General Court, counsel were employed to defend their rights; and finally a petition and an agent were sent to England.

July 21st 1714. Voted that two acres of land on the hill before Mr. David Freeman's, where the Burying place now is, shall be laid out for a Burying place for Attleborough. This is the grave-yard near the village called the City.

June 13th 1717. Voted unanimously that Col. Nath'l. Paine Esq. Mr. Richard Waterman, Esq. Lieut. Anthony Sprague, Mr. Dan. Jenks and Mr. Dan. Smith be a committee to see to the Northerly bounds, hereby giving them full power to act in all respects in behalf of the whole Propriety concerning running the line between Attleboro' Wrentham and Dedham, where it ought lawfully to be stated according to our purchase deed.

July 14th 1717. The Committee were authorized to defend all suits of law that may be commenced by any person or persons against the Propriety, and to empower any attorney or attornies that may be needful for advice; and further to commence any action or actions that they may think proper for the benefit of the said Propriety.

Nov. 2d 1720. Voted that the former Committee still proceed with their Petitions, even until they send to England about the right of our northern line (if they cannot be heard in our own government), and that the expense be paid by the proprietors according to their several interests.

Voted that one hundred acres of undivided land be sold to defray the expenses of defending the northern line. †

Feb. 21st 1726—7. Voted that any person or persons who will sue for our rights in the land challenged by Dorchester or Stoughton, Wrentham and Bellingham, and to the South of Nath. Woodward and Solomon Saffrey's line and on the north of the town and all that part that lieth within their challenge, shall have the fourth part of said tract of land if they recover

---

† At a subsequent meeting in 1752, the Clerk was authorized to sell to any of the proprietors 79½ acres of undivided land at 8 shillings lawful money per acre.

it to the use of the Propriety. Maj. Leonard Esq. Capt John Foster and Ensign Daniel Peck appeared in said meeting and accepted the offer.

June 5, 1727. At this meeting a petition in rhyme was presented by one Joshua Barrows,\* at that time a well known *extempore* rhymster, of whose productions many specimens are still remembered; and of whose wit and eccentricity tradition has preserved numerous amusing anecdotes. He seems to have suffered the common fate of poets, poverty. His petition is recorded at length in the Proprietors' books,—which is transcribed merely for the amusement of the reader.

‘Your Honors now I do implore  
To read my poor petition;  
I hope your hearts will open be  
To pity my condition.

Ten acres of the Common Land  
I pray that you would give;  
Then thankful I will be to you  
As long as I do live.

Such a kindness, I must confess,  
From you I don't deserve;  
But when in health, I freely work—  
Why should you let me starve?

From day to day my daily bread  
I get it by my sweat;  
But to my sorrow, I beg and borrow  
When sickness doth me let.

No more in rhyme here at this time,  
No more I have at hand,  
And so I'll end, your faithful friend  
And servant to command.

JOSHUA BARROWS.’

Attleborough, June 5th 1727.

The prayer of this petition our good-natured forefathers could not resist. ‘Upon the hearing of the aforesaid petition of Joshua Barrows, there were sundry persons in said meeting

---

\* He is said to have been entirely illiterate.

which were proprietors, which gave him land to take up upon their rights—their names are as followeth, &c.’—making in the whole 13 acres, which were laid out and recorded to him.

It appears from the report of a committee that an agent was actually employed in England to defend their boundaries. In their account are the following items :

Paid for silver money to send to England . . . . . £21 17 6.

Paid to Nath. Brown for carrying the money to

Boston to send to England - - - - - £2 02 6

To expense at Providence when both committees met there to wait on Gov. Jencks, and writing to send to England after his return from England, &c. &c. - - - - - £1 7 6

Jan. 3d 1750—1. Chose Col. Thomas Bowen, Maj. John Foster and Capt. Sam. Tyler a committee, fully empowering them to prepare a petition praying the General Court that some effectual method may be taken for the perfecting of a straight line\* from the middle of Accord Pond (so called) westward to that station which is three English miles south of the southernmost part of Charles River, agreeable to a settlement made by the Government of New Plymouth and the Massachusetts in the year 1640.

Sept. 26th 1751. Made choice of James Otis of Boston and John Foster of Attleborough, Esqrs. a committee in addition to Benj. Day and Nath. Smith (chosen at a former meeting) to present a petition about to be heard at the General Court at

---

\* The cause of dispute was an angle in the Old Colony Line, which is said to have originated in this way : The Commissioners, who were appointed in 1640 by the two colonies to run the line between them, commenced near the shore at a rock called Bound Rock in the middle of Accord Pond, which is in the line between Scituate and Cohasset, (once part of Hingham) intending to reach by a straight line the most northerly point of Plymouth Colony, on the easterly line of R. Island ; but when they had arrived within about three miles they discovered that their course would carry them far to the South of the intended point. Instead of rectifying the whole line they made an angle and took a new course so far north as to reach the true point ! At this turn stood a large oak tree marked which was called Angle Tree. A large Stone Monument has been since erected on the spot by Attleborough and Wrentham.

their next session, and to pursue said petition until it is fully determined by said Court; and to petition anew if need be, to have the line settled on the northerly part of our Purchase.

May 19th 1752. Chose a committee and gave them full power to eject any person or persons out of the possession of those lands they have possessed themselves of, within the North Purchase Grant, without the consent of the Proprietors, as also full power to sue and pursue any action brought for the purpose, to final judgment and execution.

May 27th, 1754. The committees of Rehoboth N. Purchase and Taunton N. Purchase entered into an agreement to commence actions of ejectment against persons who had intruded upon their respective purchases, the costs to be borne equally by the two Proprietries.

Divisions of land in the N. Purchase have been made among the Proprietors at different times, as follows:

1.	A Division of 50 acres to a share granted March 18, 1668-9	
2.	" of 50 acres to a share was granted Feb. 18th 1684	
3.	" " 50 acres, in 2 parts, 25 acres each, Oct. 31, 1699	
4.	" " 50 acres in 2 lotments,	1703
5.	" " 50 acres was granted	June 10th, 1707
6.	" " 50 " " "	July 21st, 1714
7.	" " 20 " " "	Feb. 21st, 1726-7
8.	" " 10 " " "	April 14th, 1735
9.	" " 3 " " "	April 4th, 1760
10.	" " 2 " " "	1793
11.	" " 2 " " "	1801
12.	" " 1 " " "	1820
13.	" " 1 " " "	May 10th, 1833

The most valuable parts of this Purchase were taken up by these divisions many years since. A small but broken and unproductive remnant of this land yet remains common and undivided on Cutting's Plain (so called) on the road from East Attleborough to Wrentham.

From their records and the extracts which have been made, it appears that the proprietors made their own regulations, gave their own titles to lands, and in fact, enacted all their

laws relative to the ownership and the original conveyance of lands included in their purchases.

*Names of the Clerks of the Propriety.*

William Carpenter, Jr.	chosen	May 17th, 1682
Daniel Smith	"	May 31st, 1703
Noah Carpenter	"	April 23d, 1724
John Robbins, Jr.	"	May 1st, 1752
John Daggett	"	Dec. 9th, 1763
Ebenezer Daggett	"	July 1st, 1793 and

continued till his death March 4th, 1832. Lucas Daggett chosen May 10, 1833.

### INDIAN WAR.

The few events, connected with this war, which occurred here, should not be omitted in the history of the town.

The peaceful regions, which we now inhabit, once resounded with the shrill and terrible war-whoop of the Indian.—These fields and woods, these hills and vales were once trod by the wild hunters of the forest. They were the domains of another race of men, who have long since passed away and are known only by the brief histories and scattered relics which their conquerors have preserved. But whatever relates to them is interesting. They were distinguished by many peculiarities. They had their savage vices, but possessed at the same time their savage virtues. They were hardy, bold and warlike.

The most important and critical period in the history of the Colony was the Indian War of 1675—6. This was a gloomy and fearful period to these infant settlements. The hour of their destruction seemed to be drawing nigh. They were a scattered people,—spreading over a wide extent of territory,—peculiarly exposed in their lives and property, to Indian depredations. The approaching contest required all the patience, fortitude and courage which men are ever called to exercise. They had to contend against fearful odds. Nearly all the New England tribes, embracing many thousand warriors, had combined for their destruction, guided by the matchless genius of a Chief versed in all the arts of savage warfare. It was a war

of extermination—a contest for victory in which there was no quarter—no mercy.

In April 1676, the Indians, having suffered several severe defeats in a body, adopted a new mode of warfare, and dispersed themselves in small parties over the country, burning, killing and destroying wherever opportunity offered. Among other outrages, they attacked Woodcock's Garrison, 'killed one man and one of Woodcock's sons, and wounded another, and burnt the son's house.' Some circumstances connected with this event appear to have been accurately preserved by tradition, from which and other sources are gathered the following particulars.

His sons were at work in a corn field near the house. The Indians, concealed in a wood \* adjoining the field, approached to its borders and fired upon them. The workmen fled to the Garrison, leaving the dead body on the field. The Indians, to gratify their spite against the family, cut off the son's head, stuck it on a long pole, which they set up on a hill at some distance in front of the house and in full view of the family, to aggravate their feelings as much as possible. From this time Woodcock swore never to make peace with the Indians. He ever after hunted them like wild beasts. He was a man of resolute and determined character;—and tradition says, that not a few fell victims to his vengeance and a sacrifice to the manes of his murdered son.

This attack was in May. The body of his son (whose name was Nathaniel) was buried on the spot where he fell, nearly in the centre of the yard which has ever since been reserved for a burying ground.

**PIERCE'S FIGHT.**—This town was the scene of one of the most severe, bloody and fatal battles fought during the war.—It took place on Sunday March 26th 1676, in that part which is now Cumberland R. I. near the Blackstone River. The spot is still pointed out.

The Government of Plymouth, fearing that their settlements would be again attacked, after so many outrages had been

---

\* Now the meadow on the east of the turnpike below the bridge.

committed in Massachusetts, ordered out a company for their defence, consisting of 63 Englishmen and 20 Cape Indians,\* under the command of Capt. Michael Pierce of Scituate.—He immediately marched in pursuit of the enemy who were supposed to be in the vicinity. He rendezvoused at the Garrison in Rehoboth on Saturday night. The next day, 'having intelligence in his Garrison at Seaconicke that a party of the enemy lay near Mr. Blackstone's, he went forth with 63 English and 20 Cape Indians;' and soon discovered 4 or 5 Indians in a piece of woods who pretended to be lame and wounded, but proved to be decoys to lead the whites into ambuscade, for they soon discovered 500 more of the enemy. Pierce, though aware of their superiority of numbers, courageously pursued them, when they began to retreat slowly; but there soon appeared another company of 400 Indians, who were now able completely to surround him. A party of the enemy were stationed on the opposite side of the River to prevent the English crossing; they were thus attacked in front and rear by an overwhelming force. Thus all chance of retreat and all hope of escape was cut off. This was a most trying moment. But there was no flinching—no quailing. Each one knew that in all human probability he must die on that field, and that too under the most appalling circumstances—by the hand of a merciless enemy who sought their extermination.—But bravely and nobly did they submit to their fate. Each one resolved to do his duty and sell his life at the dearest rate. At such a time the awful war-whoop of the Indian would have sent a thrill of terror to the hearts of any but brave men. At

---

\* This account differs in some respects from that given by Church who states that there were only 50 Whites and 20 Cape Indians. I have relied, for the most of the particulars in this description, on a 'Continued Account of the Bloody Indian War from March till August 1676,' now in the hands of Mr. S. G. Drake, Boston. It was published in London the same year; and contains a minute and apparently accurate detail of this battle and many of the other important events of the war. The work consists of a series of letters written by a gentleman in Boston to his friend in London, and published from time to time as they were received. One volume, (the above mentioned) containing 3 or 4 letters, has been lately discovered;—and was never reprinted in this country.

this critical juncture Capt. Pierce made an exceedingly judicious movement. He formed his men into a circle, back to back, with four spaces between each man—thus enlarging the circle to its greatest extent—presenting a front to the enemy in every direction, and necessarily scattering their fire over a greater surface; whilst the Indians stood in a deep circle, one behind another, forming a compact mass, and presenting a front where every shot must take effect.\* He thus made a brave resistance for two hours, (all the while keeping the enemy at a distance and his own men in perfect order) and kept up a constant and destructive fire upon the Indians. But no courage or skill could prevail in such an unequal contest, or longer resist such a force.† At last overpowered by numbers, Capt. Pierce and 55 English and 10 Cape Indians were slain on the spot, 'which in such a cause and upon such disadvantage may certainly be styled the Bed of Honor.' But this victory was gained at a great sacrifice. The Indians lost as many (not counting women and children) as in the great swamp fight at Narragansett, which were computed at over 300!

This was the sorest defeat which the Colony of Plymouth suffered during the war, and caused great distress every where, for the numbers lost amounted to about one third of their regular force. According to Church, not a single white man returned from this bloody and fatal battle-field.

As soon as the Rehoboth people received information of the dangerous situation of Capt. Pierce and his men, they despatched a company to his assistance, who arrived in season only to perform the last offices to the dead bodies of their countrymen.

The courage and resolution displayed on this occasion deserve commendation. These brave soldiers were entitled to the gratitude of the Colony, for whose defence they had thus sacrificed their lives. They were taken by surprise, and completely surrounded by a force ten times their superior. Pierce

---

\* In the words of the account just referred to: 'Capt. Pierce cast his men into a Ring, and fought back to back, and were double-double distance all in one ring, whilst the Indians were as thick as they could stand thirty deep.'

† Canonchet, a Narragansett Chief, commanded in this battle. He was soon after taken prisoner and executed.

was a bold and adventurous man—fear formed no part of his character. His men partook of his courage. They pushed forward—perhaps imprudently—and thus fell into the snare which their enemy had prepared for them. Considering the numbers engaged, it was doubtless the most warmly and closely contested of all the engagements which took place, during that eventful period, between the white and the red men. Nearly 400 were killed on both sides. History has recorded, with applause, every feat of bravery, when performed on a more conspicuous station, whilst it has often overlooked the humble though equally meritorious exploit. It requires more true courage to die on such a field, with such a foe, than on the plains of Waterloo, amid the ‘pomp and circumstance of glorious war.’

The following adventure in which ‘Old Woodcock’ was engaged, is abridged from a communication in the Mass. His. Coll. furnished by the research of the late Dr. Mann, formerly of Wrentham. It rests upon the authority of tradition, but appears to be well authenticated.

A man by the name of Rocket, in searching for a stray horse, discovered a train of 42 Indians, about sunset; from their appearance he suspected they intended to attack the settlement at Wrentham, the next morning, after the men had dispersed to their work; he therefore followed them, secretly, till they halted for the night, when he hastily returned to the settlement and gave notice to the inhabitants. A consultation was held, at which it was agreed to attack the Indians early the next morning. A company of 13 under the command of Capt. Ware, was hastily collected from Wrentham and the vicinity; who, having secured the women and children and the infirm in the Garrison, set out for the Indian encampment, where they arrived just before day light; and were posted within a short distance, with orders to reserve their fire till the enemy began to decamp.

Between day light and sun-rise the Indians suddenly rose from their resting places, when, upon a signal given, a general discharge was made, which threw them into the utmost consternation. Some, in their confusion, while attempting to es-

cape, leaped down a precipice of rocks from 10 to 20 feet in height ; some of the fugitives were overtaken and slain. Two of them, who were closely pursued, attempted to conceal themselves in Mill Brook, where they were found and killed. It is related that one Woodcock discharged his long musket called, in those days, a buccaneer, at a fugitive Indian, at the distance of 80 rods, and broke his thigh bone, and then killed him.

The number of Indians killed was from 20 to 24 ; and not one of the whites. The place, where this bold adventure occurred, is in that part of the ancient Wrentham which is now Franklin. The large rock where the Indians were encamped, is to this day, called *Indian Rock*. The time is not certainly ascertained ; but it was, without much doubt, in the Spring or Summer of 1676, when the Indian forces were dispersed in parties throughout the country.

**NINE MEN'S MISERY.** This is the name of a spot in Cumberland, R. I. where nine men were slain in Phillip's war. This place is near the house of the late Elisha Waterman, Esq. just north of 'Camp Swamp' (so called.) The only circumstances of this event which I have gathered are these : A company of nine men were in advance of, or had strayed from their party for some purpose, when they discovered a number of Indians near this spot, whom they immediately pursued and attacked, but a large number of the enemy rushed out of the swamp and surrounded them. The whites, placing their backs to a large rock near by, fought with desperation till every one of them was killed on the spot. The rest of their party, who were within hearing of their guns, hastened to their succor, but arrived too late to render them any assistance. Their bodies were buried on the spot, which is now designated by a large pile of stones.

I have seen no notice of this occurrence in history ; but as to the main fact there can be no doubt. The bones of these men were disinterred not many years ago, by some physicians (for anatomical purposes) and were found nearly perfect. But the people in the vicinity insisted upon their being restored, which was accordingly done. One of the slain was ascertained to

be a Bucklin of Rehoboth, from the remarkable circumstance of a set of double front teeth which he was known to possess.

The time when this happened none of my informants can tell; but there is some reason for believing that it was at or about the time of Pierce's fight.\*

### THE MINISTRY.

The town was not able to support a preacher for several years after the incorporation.

The first settled minister in this town was the Rev. Matthew Short. He was chosen Oct. 1st 1711, and ordained Nov. 12th 1712. Difficulties soon arose between him and his people, which (after many ineffectual attempts to reconcile them) finally resulted in his dismissal May 31st, 1715. He continued in this town only about four years, having preached one year before his ordination. Of the previous or subsequent history of Mr. Short but little is known. He removed to Easton and became the first settled minister of that town.

According to the articles of agreement made with Mr. Short, Dec. 20th, 1711, he was to have £50 a year for the first six years; one third to be in money, and 'the other two thirds in grain, beef, pork, butter or cheese, any or either of them at current price.'† At the 7th year his salary was to be raised to £60, payable as above, and there to continue until there should be 100 families in town capable of paying public taxes in the judgment of the selectmen for the time being, and then it was to be £70 per annum. He was also to have the use of the Ministerial house and lands so long as he should continue in his pastoral office.

Mr. Short was married to Miss Margaret Freeman of Attleborough, by Justice Leonard, Dec. 27th, 1711. He had two daughters while in this town, Anna and Judith.

---

\* Several of the Rehoboth people were slain the 26th March, 1676, the time of Pierce's fight; viz. John Fitch, Jr. John Read, Jr. *Benjamin Buckland*, John Miller, Jr. Robert Beers (an Irishman and then an inhabitant of Rehoboth) was slain the 28th March; Nehemiah Sabin, in June following.

† These articles were then valued as follows: Indian corn, 2 shil. 6d. per bushel; rye, 3 shil. 6d. per bushel; pork, 3d. per lb; beef, 2d. per lb; butter, 6d. per lb; and good new milk cheese 4d. per lb.

The first meeting house was built in 1710. It was not, however, entirely completed until 1714. It was 30 feet square; and stood on the spot where the Hall of the Agricultural Society now stands.\*

A few extracts from the records detailing more particularly the early proceedings relative to the settlement of the first minister will be acceptable to the present generation.

March 25th, 1707. 'The meeting then held was for the choosing of a learned orthodox minister of good conversation to dispense the word of God to us in Attleborough; voted to give Mr. Fiske a call to preach for us. Likewise a committee of nine was chosen to procure a minister to settle. It was likewise voted to empower the said committee to treat with the said Mr. Fiske as to his dispensing the word of God amongst us, and to settle him, if he may be obtained; and if he may not, then any other minister that the town shall call, being approved by the neighboring ministers.

May 20th, 1707. Voted to give Mr. More a call to preach amongst us and to settle if he may be obtained.

June, 1707. Voted that Hezekiah Peck and Jonathan Fuller be a committee to see and get a petition written to the General Court for some help towards the maintenance of a minister.†

The sum of £80 had been granted by the town, Nov. 22d, 1705, towards building a minister's house, £35 of which had been collected; and on the 2d July 1707, the town voted that the remaining £45 should be levied and collected.

June 15th, 1708. The meeting then held was for the choosing of an able and orthodox minister to serve us in the work

---

\* At a town meeting Feb. 9th, 1709—10, Voted to build a meeting house 30 feet square and 16 feet between joints, and to set it upon a piece of land on the east side of the country road near to the house of Christopher Hall, and to get the timber for said house and to frame and raise it by the 1st of June next. This lot of land was given to the town for this purpose by Lieut. Moses Read.

† In 1710 the Mile and Half was re-annexed to this town, which restored fourteen families, and enabled the people to support a preacher without other assistance.

of the ministry in this place ; it was voted that the committee should treat with Mr. Wiswell to dispense the word of God to us if he may be obtained ; if not, then with Mr. Fisher, if he may be obtained ; if not, then with Mr. Hunt, if he may be obtained ; if not, then with Mr. Devotion, and if neither of them may be obtained, then they may treat with any other that shall be allowed of by the neighboring ministers, until they have settled one in Attleborough.\*

July 28th, 1710. Chose Mr. Ebenezer White for our minister, if he will stay with us, if not, then Mr. Myles. Mr. White, it appears, did not at this time accept the invitation to settle. He however preached for them nearly a year.

Oct. 9th, 1710. Chose a committee to see to the finishing of the meeting house, and the 1st January next ensuing was the time fixed for finishing it. Voted to raise a tax of £60 as a fund for said work, £5 to be in money, and the rest in corn, rye, beef and pork, or in materials for the building.

Nov. 20th, 1710. Voted that the house which is built on the ministerial lot should be given to the first minister that shall serve the town seven years in the office of a minister, and so living and dying amongst us, then to be his and his heirs forever.†

Oct. 1st, 1711. At a meeting for the choice of an able orthodox minister to dispense the word of God to us in Attleborough, the town chose Mr. Matthew Short for their minister.‡

Nov. 5, 1711. Granted a tax of £25 towards paying Mr. Short ; £10 in money and the other £15 in grain, pork, beef, butter, cheese, at current price.

---

\* The inhabitants were so few (consisting of about 16 families exclusive of the 14 who had been annexed to Rehoboth) that they were not able to afford a competent salary, which was probably the cause of their embarrassment in the settlement of a minister.

† The next settled minister acquired the property of this house (and also the ministerial farm as will subsequently appear) by having fulfilled the condition of the grant.

‡ March 18, 1711—12. Voted to build a pew for the minister in the meeting house, and also agreed that Mrs. Short shall have the benefit and privilege of sitting in the same during her abode in Attleborough.

The second minister in town was Rev. Ebenezer White.\* He was chosen by the people July 18th, 1715; ordained Oct. 17th, 1716. He was minister of the town 11 years; and remained here till his death, Sept. 4th, 1726. So far as appears, he gave general satisfaction. He married Abigail Paine, and had several children, Hannah, Martha, Edward, Experience, and Thankful; and two others who died infants.

Besides his regular salary Mr. White acquired a title to the Ministerial farm and house (so called) by having fulfilled the condition of the grant.

At a meeting of the Proprietors of the N. Purchase, Sept. 16, 1707, it was unanimously voted, 'that the surveyor with the major part of the committee should forthwith lay out a hundred acres of land within said Purchase, which shall be the first settled minister's, in Attleborough, that continueth to be their minister for the space of seven years; said land to be said minister's, and his heirs' and assigns' forever.' *N. P. Rec. 2 Book, p. 3. Laid out and Recorded 1 B. p. 197, 199.*

Several other grants and gifts have been made to the town for the use of the ministry.

The Ministerial Lot (which has been a subject of so much controversy in modern days) was granted at an adjourned meeting of the Proprietors held at Rehoboth June 29, 1685, in the words following: 'It was likewise voted and agreed upon (*nemine contradicente*,) that a hundred acres of land be forthwith laid out at the Seven Mile River, where Rice Leonard's lot was, and as near adjacent as may be; which said hundred acres of land perpetually to be reserved for the Ministry.' *Rehoboth Town Rec. 2 B. p. 48. Bounds recorded N. P. Rec. 1 B. p. 197.*

The lot where the first meeting house stood was given by Lieut. Moses Read.

'Oct. 16, 1712. Laid out to Lieut. Moses Read two acres of land by the meeting house; bounded S. the stated road; E. the foot of the hill; N. the land of the heirs of Christopher Hall; W. the country road. The above said land the said Lieut.

---

\* Son of James White of Dorchester, Ms. baptized July 12, 1685 graduated, Har. Col. 1703.

Read gave to the town of Attleborough for public use forever, and ordered it so to be put on record, as is attest by me

DANIEL SMITH, Clerk.

R. N. P. Rec. 1 B. p. 302.

Allowance for a highway through said lot, 2 B. p. 129.

Nov. 1st, 1734. Noah Carpenter, Sen. and Caleb Hall of Attleborough, 'in consideration of love, good will and affection which we have and do bear towards the church and congregation of the said Attleborough, called by the name of the Presbyterian,' have given, granted, conveyed, &c. unto them, their heirs and assigns forever, that is to be understood for the especial use, benefit and privilege of that society forever, a certain tract of land containing about 45 rods, where the new meeting house now stands, bounded by the said Carpenter's and the said Hall's lands and by the country road, &c. &c.—  
R. N. P. Rec. 2 B. p. 126.

Rev. Habijah Weld, the third minister of Attleborough, was distinguished for his usefulness in the ministry, and highly respected as a man both at home and abroad. He united, to an uncommon degree, the affections of his people, for the long period of nearly 55 years during which he was their pastor. He was a man of talents and respectable acquirements; and was extensively known. His character deserves a more particular notice.

He was born in Dunstable, Mass. Sept. 2d. 1702; graduated at Cambridge University in 1723; and was ordained pastor of the first Church and Congregation in this town, Oct. 1st. 1727. He died May 14th, 1782, in the 80th year of his age, and the 55th of his ministry. The following notice of his character is extracted from a communication in Dr. Dwigths' Travels, from the Hon. David Daggett, now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut.

'Mr. Weld was below the middle stature; and in the latter part of his life, corpulent. His constitution was vigorous; and his mind almost singularly energetic. The stipend, which he received from his parishioners, consisted of an annual salary of two hundred and twenty dollars; and the use of a parsonage lot, which furnished him with wood, and a little pasture.—

With his patrimony he purchased a farm of about 70 acres, of moderately good land and a decent house. He had fifteen children ; ten of whom were married during his life, and one after his death. The remaining four died while young. This numerous family he educated with the means which have been mentioned, in a manner, superior to what is usually found in similar circumstances ; entertained much company in a style of genuine hospitality ; and was always prepared to contribute to the necessities of others.

For the regulation of his domestic concerns, Mr. Weld prescribed to himself and his family a fixed system of rules, which were invariably observed, and contributed not a little to the pleasantness and prosperity of his life. His children, laborers, and servants submitted to them with cheerfulness ; and his house became the seat of absolute industry, peace and good order. Breakfast was on the table precisely at six o'clock ; dinner, at twelve ; and supper, at six in the evening. After supper he neither made visits himself, nor permitted any of his family to make them.'

His observation of the Sabbath was peculiarly exemplary. He permitted no act to be done in his house on that day, except such as were acts of necessity and mercy in the strict sense.

'Mr. Weld was naturally of a very ardent disposition. Yet so entirely had he acquired an ascendancy over his temper, that a censurable, or imprudent act is not known to have been done by him, nor an improper word uttered. To vice and licentiousness, in every form, he gave no indulgence, either in his conversation, or his public instructions. On the contrary, idleness, intemperance, profaneness, and all kinds of immoral conduct, were reprov'd by him with undeviating severity.—His example in the practice of every virtue was such, as to create in all classes of men entire veneration for his character.—It is doubted whether any person ever uttered a reproach against Mr. Weld.

Nor was his piety less remarkable. Since the days of the Apostles, it is questioned whether his zeal, fidelity, and intrepidity in the cause of his divine Master have been excelled.—

During the long period of 55 years, he was never once detained from the pulpit by disease, nor from any other of his pastoral duties. His prayers were wholly formed by himself; and adapted with strict propriety to the various occasions on which they were made. They were pertinent, solemn, and impressive. His sermons were written, and were usually delivered without variation from his notes. Yet at times he addressed his congregation extemporaneously in a manner eminently forcible and affecting. \* \* \*

In his parochial visits he was accustomed to address the truths and duties of the gospel to the hearts and consciences of the family; and never lost sight of the eternal interests of his congregation. And, while he administered the balm of life to the wounded spirit, he addressed the most solemn alarms, as well as the most pungent reproofs to stubbornness and impiety.

Mr. Weld continued his labors to the sabbath before his death, without any visible decline in his powers either of body or mind. On that Sabbath he preached two sermons from these words: "He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved; and he that believeth not shall be damned." On the Tuesday following he rode in his chaise to Providence, ten miles; returned about four o'clock in the afternoon; walked into the house; told his wife, that he was unwell; requested her to open a window, as he found a difficulty in breathing; sat down; and instantly expired, of an Apoplexy. So well were his secular concerns arranged for his departure, that the settlement of his estate cost less than five dollars. His excellent wife survived him many years; and died after she had passed the age of ninety, universally lamented.

At the death of Mr. Weld, only one of his congregation was living, of those who assisted in his settlement. His parishioners showed their sense of the loss, which they sustained in his death, by an universal mourning.

The house of this gentleman was the resort of many distinguished persons from Boston, Providence, and various other parts of New England; and in no house were they received and treated with more hospitality. His manners were at once dignified and polite; and every member of his family was courte-

ous and well bred. Nothing was seen among them but harmony and goodwill.

That with such an income Mr. Weld could support so large a family, and live in so hospitable a manner, will certainly excite not a little wonder. The explanation is found in his industry, regularity, and exactness, in all his concerns. Every thing was managed in such a manner, that almost in the literal sense nothing was lost.

'In my opinion,' adds Mr. D. 'Mr. Weld was a more strict observer of the divine law, and more eminently holy, than any man whom I ever knew.'

Permit me to subjoin, says Dr. Dwight, that if all clergymen sustained the same character, and lived in the same manner, the world would speedily assume a new aspect, and its inhabitants, a new character."

Mr. Weld married Mary Fox, by whom he had 15 children, 4 sons, and 11 daughters who were married as follows : Jonathan Philbrook of Boston to Dorothy Weld Aug. 7th, 1759 ; Rev. Oliver Noble of Newburyport to Lucy Weld, May 15th, 1760 ; Doct. Cardee Parker of Coventry, Ct. to Mary Weld, April 15th, 1762 ; Caleb Fuller of Windsor, county of Ware, Me. to Hannah Weld, Oct. 23, 1762 ; Rev. Ezra Weld to Anna Weld, Feb. 9, 1764 ; Rev. Oakes Shaw of Barnstable to Elizabeth Weld, July 19, 1764 ; Rev. Timothy Alden of Yarmouth to Sarah Weld, Nov. 22d, 1770 ; Eliphaz Day of Attleboro' to Eunice Weld.

In 1728 a new meeting house was built by the town.

May 13, 1728. The town voted to enlarge the meeting house by making an addition of 20 feet to the north end. But in September following, a number of individuals engaged by subscription to advance the sum of £234 10s. (in addition to their proportion of the taxes) towards defraying the expenses of a new meeting house, if the town would agree to build anew, instead of enlarging the old. The town accordingly voted, Nov. 18, 1728, to build a new house, and ordered it to be 50 feet in length, 40 feet in breadth, and of a suitable height for one tier of galleries ; and that it 'shall stand on a

little hill on the north side of the Pound, about 15 or 16 rods from the old meeting house.\*

The town constituted one Parish until April 7th, 1743, when it was divided into 'two distinct and separate' Parishes or Precincts by an act of the Legislature. The West constituted the *first*, and the East, the second Precinct.

#### EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE FIRST PARISH.

Sept. 18th 1744. The sum of £12, 14s. was granted to the second precinct. This was probably a part of their share in the meeting house.

March 27, 1777.† The salary of their minister, Mr. Weld, was £66, 13s. 4d.

Sept. 21st, 1779. Voted to raise Rev. Mr. Weld's salary to \$600. Paper currency was much depreciated. Sept. 29th, 1779, Voted to double his salary for the year.

March 28, 1780. A meeting was called 'to see if the Precinct will apply to some one to assist Mr. Weld, in the work of the ministry, under his present indisposition of body,' &c. Voted that the two Deacons see that the pulpit is supplied in case Mr. Weld is unable to preach.

June 3d, 1782. A meeting was held 'to see if the Precinct will agree to pay the funeral charges of the Rev. Mr. Weld, late of Attleborough, deceased.' 2d. 'To see if the Precinct will choose a committee to seek a supply occasioned by the death of our late Pastor.'

From this time till the settlement of Mr. Wilder, in 1790, nearly 8 years, the parish was destitute of a settled minister. The people were very much divided on this subject. Many un-

---

\* It was voted that those parts of the town which may be hereafter set off as a precinct or town shall have the money repaid to them, which they now pay towards the new meeting house.

† The last meeting, under the Provincial Government (March 1776) was warned, as usual, 'in the name of his Majesty the King of England,' &c. but the next one, 17th Sept. following, soon after the declaration of Independence, was warned 'in the name of these States and in behalf of the good people of this Province,' &c.

successful attempts were made to settle a minister ; numerous candidates were called ; but the people could make no choice. They had been long united and harmonious under the ministry of Mr. Weld ; some diversity of opinion and alienation of feeling were to be expected after so long a calm.

Aug. 27, '82. Voted to hire Rev. Mr. Morey six weeks longer. Oct. 30, '82. A meeting was called 'to see if the Precinct will give Mr. Morey a call to settle in the ministry.' 1st. 'Voted to give him a call. 2d. Voted to re-consider it.'

Feb. 26, '83. Voted to treat with a committee in second Precinct relative to Ministerial Lands. There was a dispute between the two parishes for a long time in regard to their relative rights to these lands, which was finally terminated, I believe, by payment of a certain sum to the 2d parish.

At the same meeting, voted to hire Rev. Mr. Bradford 3 months. Voted to buy 100 sermons delivered by Rev. Mr. Thacher,\* on the death of Rev. Mr. Weld. Voted to apply to Rev. Mr. Spalding of Killingly, Ct. to come and preach a few weeks.'

Aug. 18, '83. Voted 'to send to the President† of Yale College to send us a candidate.' He accordingly sent them a young man, who it appears, was not acceptable.

Oct. 29, '83. Voted to choose a committee to consult lawyer Bradford‡ concerning the Ministerial Lands.

Dec. 15, '83. Rev. Mr. Britt was preaching as a candidate. Subsequently Rev. Mr. Avery,—then a Mr. March—Mr. Hart of Preston, Ct.—Mr. Damon,—Mr. Plum. 'Voted to send for Mr. Huntington to preach for us.' Before the arrival of Mr. Wilder, many other names of candidates appear. So irreconcilable were the feelings, or opinions, or both, of the parish, that it seemed next to impossible to make a selection. So great was the distress of the people, amidst their divisions, that they

---

\* The first settled minister of the second precinct. It was delivered before Mr. Weld's parishioners the Sabbath after his death.

† Rev. Napthali Daggett, who was a native of this town, which is the reason of their application to him.

‡ This Bradford was afterwards Lieut. Governor of R. Island—a man very popular at that time, in his profession.

at last appointed a 'Fast on account of their present difficulties.' In this they hit upon the right expedient, for it seemed to have a very happy effect, as they soon after agreed on a candidate, the Rev. John Wilder, who, at a meeting, Jan. 4, 1790, gave an answer accepting the proposals of the parish—which terminated their long and troublesome contest. He was ordained, Jan. 27th, 1790.

Rev. John Wilder was dismissed Nov. 28th, 1822. He had been the settled minister of that parish upwards of 32 years.

To him succeeded Rev. Thomas Williams, formerly of Connecticut, who was installed Sept. 29th, 1824. His connection with the parish was dissolved Dec. 11th, 1827.

The next settled minister was Rev. Charles J. Warren, who was ordained Feb. 28th, 1828, and dismissed July 8th, 1830.

There is at present no settled minister connected with that church.

The new meeting House, being the *third* in that society, was built in the summer of 1828, and dedicated Jan. 1st, 1829.

### EAST PARISH.

This parish was divided from the other April 7th, 1743, about 90 years ago.

The first meeting of the Parish was the 6th of June succeeding. On the 20th of the same month, a meeting was called 'to consider and see what the Parish will do in order to placing a meeting house for the public worship of God.' This is the first record of an attempt to build a meeting house in this part of the town. At the same time a committee was chosen 'to agree with Mr. Willis, or some other man for the present.' It was also 'voted to choose a committee of two who should apply, in the first place, to Rev. Mr. Willis, and if he cannot be obtained, then to Mr. Read, and if he cannot be obtained, then to Mr. Peter Thacher.'

At said meeting it was voted to set their Meeting House on the Plain 'where the roads meet or cross each other.'

It appears by the records of the next meeting that they had hired Mr. Thacher for a time. He was the first minister who

preached here. He commenced August 20th, 1743, but was not ordained and settled till Nov. 30th, 1748, about 5 years.

Sept. 6, 1743. 'Voted to proceed forthwith to build a meeting House for the public worship of God.' The house was to be 35 feet square and high enough for one tier of galleries. A committee was chosen 'to carry on the building of said house.' At a subsequent meeting Oct. 18, 1743, 'voted to re-consider the vote relating to the dimensions of the meeting house, and to build one 45 feet long, and 35 feet wide, and high enough for one tier of galleries.' This was the size of the house as it was afterwards built. The M. House was commenced in the Autumn of this year, but the interior was not finished till several years subsequently.

On the 1st Nov. following, the Parish made choice of Rev. Peter Thacher for their minister, 'by a free vote;' and agreed to give him, for a salary £40, yearly, for 4 years, and at the end of 4 years, to give him £50 per annum, 'current money;' and also for a settlement £300, 'old tenor,' to be paid in 4 years, i. e. one quarter part each year.

The present Burying Ground in East Attleborough was laid out Oct. 16, 1744, as appears by a vote of that date. 'Voted to have a Burying Place in the Meeting House lot, and that it should be at the Northwesterly corner of said lot.' This piece of land was purchased previously by the Parish, and consisted of two Acres, called the 'Meeting House Lot.'

Dec. 21st, 1747. Voted to give Mr. Thacher £600 old tenor, for his settlement; and also 25 cords of wood, yearly.

Oct. 28th, 1748. Settled Mr. Thacher's salary at £400 per annum, old tenor, 'reckoning silver money at 55 shills. per ounce, and to rise and fall as silver shall rise and fall, so long as he shall continue our minister.' At the same time the Parish chose a committee to provide for the ordination of Mr. Thacher, which took place 30th of the next month. He continued the pastor until Oct. 26th, 1784, when he was dismissed by vote of Parish. He had a few months previous to his dismission, suffered an attack of the palsy, (which rendered him unable to perform the duties of his station) of which he died Sept. 13th, 1785, in the 70th year of his age. He preach

ed in this town about 41 years—was a highly respectable and useful man. He was born in Middleboro', and was the son of Rev. Peter Thacher of that place.\* Nov. 31st, 1749, he married Bethiah, the oldest daughter of Obediah Carpenter, of Attleborough; by whom he had 10 children, 7 sons and 3 daughters. Several of his descendants are living in this town.

He published a Discourse on the death of Rev. Mr. Weld, which has been reprinted. A small volume of his sermons was also republished in 1798, by his son, entitled, 'Select Discourses on Practical Subjects.'

After Mr. Thacher, and before the settlement of another minister, there were several preachers here, Rev. Asahel Huntington, Mr. Laughton, Mr. Farrington, of Wrentham, Mr. Mead, &c.

The next settled minister was the Rev. Ebenezer Lazell of Bridgewater, (a graduate of Brown University, 1788) who was ordained Nov. 21st, 1792, and dismissed Jan. 3d 1797. He continued here about 4 years.

His successor was the Rev. Nathan Holman, who was ordained Oct. 14th, 1800, and was dismissed May 22d, 1821, having been settled here about 21 years. He graduated at Brown University in 1797.

The present minister is the Rev. John Ferguson, formerly of Providence, R. I. who was ordained Feb. 27th 1822.

A Parsonage House was built by the Parish in 1822.

The second Meeting House in the East Precinct, was built in 1825. It was begun in the Spring of that year, and dedicated in December following. It cost about \$6000.

---

\* Rev. P. Thacher, of Middleborough, was born Oct. 6, 1688, graduated at Cambridge University, A. D. 1706, ordained at that place, Nov. 2, 1709, and died April 22d, 1744, aged 56. He was the son of Rev. Peter Thacher, minister of Milton, (by his wife Theodora, daughter of Rev. John Oxenbridge) who was the son of Rev. Thomas Thacher, of Boston, and was born at Salem, July 18th, 1651, graduated at Harvard College, 1671, ordained June 1st, 1681, and died Dec. 27th 1727, aged 76.

## NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH.

This church was constituted in 1769. Its existence however, may be traced back as early as 1747. It was at first and for many years afterwards of the Congregational order though differing from that denomination in some respects. 'There being, say the Church records, a considerable number of christians in this place that are dissatisfied with the Constitution of the standing order of Churches in the land : they with some others formed themselves into a society to worship God according to His word and spirit.' Jan. 20th, 1747, the Church proceeded 'to set apart their esteemed Brother Nathaniel Shepard by solemn ordination as their Pastor,' who was removed by death April 14th, 1752.

It was from the commencement a small and feeble church, and continued 'through many trials and discouragements,' till the year 1769, when by vote the church changed their constitution 'from a Congregational to a Baptist Church in what is called open communion.' At this time there were 6 male and 4 female members who agreed in doctrine, and formed fellowship with Bellingham Church. Two years previous, in 1767, the church moved Mr. Abraham Bloss from Sturbridge to Attleborough, who preached here till his death Sept. 16th, 1769.

To him succeeded Elder Job Seamans, of 'Sackville, Cumberland county, and Province of Nova Scotia,' now in the Province of New Brunswick. Mr. Seamans was born in Swansea, Mass. in 1748. He removed to Sackville,\* New Brunswick, with Elder Mason's company who emigrated to that place from Swansea, Mass. in 1763. He there became a preacher. He was invited to become the pastor of the church in this town, and removed here. In 1779 he, in conjunction with Elder Biel Ledoyt, of Woodstock, Ct. was appointed by the Warren Association, a Missionary to visit various parts of New Hampshire. In the course of the same year he returned to Attleborough, where he remained, till 1788. In 1787, May 10th, he request-

---

\* The place was then called Tantarramar by the French, and was in the Province of Nova Scotia.—See *Benedict's History*.

ed a dismissal from the church in this place, which was reluctantly granted in June, 1788, when he removed to New London N. H. where he had preached during his mission, and was settled over the new Baptist Church in that place, which he established at the same time. Here he continued till his death in 1830, at the advanced age of 82.

Mr. Seamans married Sarah Easterbrooks, by whom he had, while here, 8 children, 4 sons and 4 daughters.

Rev. William Williams,\* who was a member of this church, and the respected pastor of the Baptist Society in Wrentham, occasionally supplied the pulpit during the vacancies which occurred after the removal of Mr. Seamans.

Nov. 1789, Elder Abner Lewis came from New Bedford to Attleborough, and continued the pastor of the church until Sept. 1795, when he returned to New Bedford. After this Mr. Laben Thurber preached here till April, 1797, when he relinquished the office of a religious teacher, and removed to the East part of the town.

Elder James Read, who was then resident in Assonet village, Freetown, commenced preaching here in April, 1800, and was so well approved, that in December of the same year the church gave him an invitation to settle, which was accepted. In February following he removed to Attleborough; and was installed Aug. 18th, 1801.—Sermon, by Rev. Dr. Gano, Providence: charge, by Elder Pitman; Right hand of fellowship, by Elder Baker. At the same time, Edward Clark was ordained as an

---

\* He was a celebrated instructor of youth. He commenced a school for fitting young men for college, near his Meeting house in Wrentham, which he continued for many years with distinguished success. He educated upwards of 100 students,\* the most of whom graduated at Brown University. Many of them became distinguished men.—In the number of his pupils were Dr. Maxcy, Hon. David R. Williams, formerly Governor of South Carolina, Hon. Tristram Burges, the present eloquent member of Congress from R. Island, &c.

Mr. Williams himself was educated at Eaton's Academy, N. Jersey, and graduated at Brown University, in 1769, which was the first class in that institution. He married for his second wife, Miss Titus, the daughter of Dea. J. Titus, of Attleborough.

\* Benedict's Mis. Bap.

**Evangelist.** Mr. Clark died April 22d, 1811, in the 72d year of his age.

Elder Read continued in the ministry here till his death.— He died Oct. 21st, 1814, in the 46th year of his age. He was a worthy and useful minister, and universally respected as a man. The records of the church bear ample testimony of the estimation in which he was held by his people. 'In the prime of his life and in the midst of his usefulness, the Lord, who doeth all things according to his good pleasure, hath seen fit to remove him from the church militant to the church triumphant. Leaving the wife of his youth to mourn the loss of a kind husband, and three children to mourn the loss of a kind parent, and this church and society to mourn the loss of a faithful minister of the Gospel, and one whose faithful warnings will long be had in remembrance by many of them.' His funeral sermon was preached by Dr. Gano.

April 28th, 1815. Rev. Stephen S. Nelson, who was then preaching in Bellingham, was invited 'to take the Pastoral care of this church.' He was dismissed in May 1820.

Rev. Silas Hall, of Raynham, came here in 1823, and remained four years. He was subsequently pastor of the Baptist church, in Taunton.

Rev. William Phillips was ordained over this church Feb. 1827, and continued its pastor two years, when he was invited to Providence, R. I. and was settled over the 2d Baptist church in that place.

Rev. Jonathan E. Forbush, the present minister, was received into the church and chosen pastor, April 1st, 1832.

The first Meeting House was not finished till 1784, though it was erected many years previous. The present Meeting house was built in the spring of 1817.

### SOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH.

This church, which is now extinct, was established as early as 1760. Its records cannot be found. April 20th, 1789, the first and second Baptist churches in Attleborough met and agreed upon fellowship as sister churches. Elder Elihu Dag-

gett\* was the first preacher. It is believed that he was never regularly settled here. He occasionally preached at the North Baptist church.

The next preacher was Elder Elisha Carpenter. He was settled as early as 1780, if not before, and remained pastor of the Church till about 1798, when he removed to Providence, N. Y. where he died. He was a native of this town—a son of Elisha Carpenter—and was born Aug. 17th, 1745. His wife was Anna Freeman of Attleborough.

Soon after Elder Carpenter's removal, the church was dissolved, and the members connected themselves with other churches in the vicinity. The meeting house was taken down about 1810. It stood on the south side of the road leading from the late Thomas Cooper's to Capt. Joseph Tiffany's.

#### FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY.

The first meeting was held Aug. 17th, 1816, when the society was organized. It was incorporated Feb. 20th 1818, by the name of the 'First Universalist Society in Attleborough.'

The first minister was the Rev. Richard Carrique. He commenced preaching here in 1816; and was ordained Dec. 29th, 1818. A meeting house was built in the summer of 1818, and dedicated Dec. 29th of the same year. It stands on the old Post Road, a few rods south of the first Congregational meeting house. Mr. Carrique was dismissed in March 1822.

The next minister was the Rev. Robert Kilham, who commenced preaching March 18th, 1822, and was soon after installed. He was dismissed in April 1828.

To him succeeded the present minister the Rev. Nathaniel Wright, who was installed in 1828.

---

\*He was the son of Dea. Mayhew Daggett; his wife was Rebecca Stanley, daughter of Jacob Stanley, one of the first of that name who came here from Topsfield. He was interred in the N. Burying Ground. On his grave stone is the following inscription: 'Sacred to the memory of Elder Elihu Daggett, who died August 29th, 1769, in the 60th year of his age.'—'Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Rebecca Daggett, (his widow) who died September 20th, 1799, in the 85th year of her age.'

*What we left behind, others possess;*

*What we gave to the poor, we carried with us.*

## HEBRONVILLE CHURCH.

This church was gathered by Rev. Thomas Williams immediately after his dismissal from the West Parish, in December, 1827. A small but neat meeting house was built at the same time on the line between Attleborough and Seekonk, half in one town and half in the other—to which (and the neighborhood) the name of Hebronville was given by the founder. Rev. Mr. Williams became its first pastor. His connection with this society was dissolved in April 1832. The present pastor is Rev. Charles Simmons.

It appears from our records that the citizens of the town took an early and active part in those proceedings which finally led to independence. The spirit of the Revolution began to move the people as early as 1773. They began to discuss the origin and foundation of their rights, and to proclaim, in bold language, their determination to maintain them. They strenuously denied the claims of the mother country. This prepared the way for that great contest which was approaching and which soon after commenced.

Pages might be filled with the spirited addresses and resolutions adopted in town meeting; but the limits of the work will permit only a brief outline of the transactions of that day.

At a town meeting January 18th, 1773, a resolute and patriotic address was adopted and sent to the Committee in Boston. It is too long to quote entire. A few extracts will afford a specimen.

‘We his Majesty’s dutiful and loyal subjects and freeholders of the town of Attleborough, To the Committee of Correspondence in Boston.’

After due professions of ‘honor and praise to George the 3d, King of Great Britain,’ &c., and praying that the ‘golden chance of succession by which the Protestant kings are held on the throne of Great Britain may never be broken,’ &c. the address proceeds to say, ‘Our present trials are very great. A wise king once said that oppression maketh a wise man mad. We hope not to turn maniacs, but to keep the advantage of

our spirits. We will pray that all they that are Gods on earth will remember that they must die like men, and the lofty, towering heads of Kings and Princes must be brought as low as the meanest subject. And here we will make a pause and enquire what we have done, what disloyalty there hath been in us that hath incurred the displeasure of our Gracious Majesty, that could be the cause of threatening the ruining of us his American subjects. And to set things in a clearer light, we may be justly entitled to a few notes of exultation.—In the year 1745, when the British trumpet sounded war from beyond the seas to the Americans,—no sooner did our American Parliament understand the certain sound of the martial trumpet but instantaneously a political convention is called, faithfulness and loyalty in every countenance. Like Babylon of old, one messenger runs to meet another, and one post to meet another to tell the whole Province that the Kingdom was invaded at one end. Forthwith orders are issued out to the Colonels, and from the Colonels to the Captains, and at the beat of the Drum volunteers paraded the ground like well harnessed soldiers with courage bold, and like the war-horse mocking at fear, marched with their commanders to the high places of Louisbourg—stormed their intrenchments; made a discovery of their subterraneous mines and galleries; beat down the strong holds; brake the jaws of the Gallic Lion, and made a conquest of the city to the crown of Great Britain. And in the last war that hath been upon us, we have joined our British brethren, warring and fighting through seas of blood until we subdued the Canadian Province to the crown of our Sovereign Lord George the 3d. And after all this, shall we be conjugated, enslaved and ruined? Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath lest they be discouraged on the one hand, and encouraged on the other. We esteem our privileges tantamount to our lives, and the loss of them death in consequence; and since there is no new discovered America for us to flee to, we are almost ready to think that we will let go our ploughshares and pruning hooks to be malleated on the anvil, and not give up our dear-bought privileges to any Power on earth.

And now in a few words to say what our privileges are and wherein they are violated: We think that our privileges take their rise merely from nature. As we emigrated from our mother country at our own expense and without any charge to the Crown of Great Britain, our subjection to the Crown of Great Britain must be considered as an act of our own election. How far that subjection was made and in what manner the British government can possibly reach over the Atlantic to have any influence at all upon us, is known only by the stipulation between us and the king of G. Britain expressed in our Charter. Although it be allowed that any Plantation settled by the order and expense of any State remains naturally subjected to that State, yet that not having been the case in our departure from G. Britain we utterly disallow any right of government over us but what is expressed in the Charter. We have no natural and necessary connection with the Crown in point of government but what springs from our own choice, and that choice can be known but by the stipulation aforesaid which both expresseth and limiteth the subjection which was our choice.—This, we apprehend, is the true and just state of our privileges, as they are interested in the present controversy. So that, whatever act of government is exercised contrary to, or not expressly provided for in the Charter, is an open infringement of our privileges.

The appointment of a Governor altogether independent on us, and who, according to the present state of things, can be under no influence from our interest but whose personal interest may naturally put him to the utter overthrow of our whole interest,—we apprehend this to be an infraction of our Charter rights and privileges.—The appointment of Judges from home, if true, or the maintenance of them independent upon us and dependent entirely upon the Crown, we think an infringement upon our Charter rights, and which tends to corrupt and destroy the very essence of our privileges.—The parting our money among a set of men of no use to us or the community, without our consent, is a bold and unjust infringement upon our privileges.—The subjecting civil cases to trial by Court of Admiralty instead of Juries, and especially the

taking from us the right of trying capital cases in any articles, and carrying our brethren, on suspicion of guilt, from all who are acquainted with their character, or who can possibly do them justice, and ordering them to be transported, at almost infinite expense three thousand miles for trial, is a most barbarous, unjust, and unconstitutional affair.'

### 1774.

Sept. 12th. The town chose a committee to join with the committees of the other towns in this county 'to consult the safety and peace and prosperity thereof, as well as the whole government and continent, upon any emergency.' The committee consisted of five, viz. Mr. Edward Richards, Dea. Eben. Lane, Capt. John Daggett, Lieut. Moses Wilmarth, and Mr. Elisha May. This was the first committee of safety chosen in this town. The practice of choosing such a committee was continued till the close of the Revolution.

Sept. 29th. Capt. John Daggett was chosen Representative to the General Court at Salem; and Dea. Eben. Lane, as a 'committee man' to join the Provincial Congress to be holden at Concord on the second Tuesday of October next.

Dec. 6th. The town established a 'Superior and an Inferior Court to hear and determine controversies that have arisen or may arise in this town.' Five men were chosen to serve as Superior Judges, viz. Dea. Eben. Larce 1st. Justice, Col. John Daggett 2d, Capt. John Stearns 3d, Capt. Moses Wilmarth 4th and Doct. Bezeliel Mann 5th. Seven were appointed Inferior Judges, viz. Mr. Edward Richards, Lieut. Elkonah Wilmarth, Capt. Jacob Ide, Capt. Stephen Richardson, Mr. Elisha May, Capt. John Tyler, Mr. Wm. Stanley.— At the same time it was voted, 'that we will comply with, stand to, and abide by the Resolves, Instructions and Directions of the Continental and Provincial Congresses;' and that 'all persons who refuse to comply with them shall be treated as *Infamous Persons*.'

It was also voted to choose a 'committee of Inspection to inquire and give notice of all persons who shall presume to make use of any India Tea after the first of March next.' The 'af-

fair of the chest of tea at Capt. Richardson's was left discretionary with the Selectmen.'

These were no half-way measures, and were supported throughout with the same resolution.

### 1775.

Jany. 2d. Chose Col. John Daggett 'to represent us at the Congress to be holden at Cambridge on the 1st of Feby. next, and to serve in that capacity until the month of May next or until the time fixed for the dissolution of said Congress.' At the same time a committee of 13 was chosen to procure 'subscriptions for the relief of the suffering poor in the town of Boston.'\*

May 24th. Capt. John Stearns was chosen to represent the town at the Provincial Congress to be held in the meeting-house at Watertown the 31st inst. The Committee of Correspondence, this year, were Dea. Eben. Lane, Doct. Mann, and Capt. Moses Wilmarth.

July 10th. Capt. John Stearns was elected representative to the General Court to be held at Watertown 19th inst.

### 1776.

March 19th. The Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety were Dea. Lane, Edward Richards, Capt. S. Richardson, Lieut. Alexander Foster, Ens. Noah Fuller, Wm. Stanley, Capt. Wilmarth, Eben. Tiffany, Sam. Atherton, Thomas Starkey, Elkonah Wilmarth, Nathaniel Bishop, and Capt. Jacob Ide.

May 22d. Capt. John Stearns, Representative. At his request, a committee, consisting of Capt. Elisha May, Capt. Stephen Richardson, Rev. Peter Thatcher, Levi Maxy, and Lieut. Alexander Foster, was chosen to draw up instructions for the Representative, who made a report, from which extracts are given.

CAPT. JOHN STEARNS,

*Sir*,—The town, reposing special confidence in your ability and integrity, have chosen you their representative at

---

\* This was on the occasion of shutting the Port of Boston by the British Parliament.

the Great and General Court for this year. At your request we take the liberty to suggest the following things to your attention as matters of great importance :

If the Continental Congress should think it best to declare for Independency of Great Britain, we unanimously desire you for us to engage to defend them therein with our lives and fortunes. \*

The fortifying and sufficiently providing for the defence of all our sea-port towns, especially the Metropolis of this Colony, is of such consequence as that parsimony or delay therein will be the worst of policy. We apprehend that the raising of soldiers for the defence of the Colony is retarded and so rendered both more chargeable and less useful, for want of sufficient Bounty to encourage enlistments ; that the raising fewer forces at a time than is necessary, which scatters the officers with whom whoever enlists will desire to be acquainted, is a like hindrance to a speedy raising of forces.'

After giving some further specific instructions, the report concludes : ' Other things in general we refer to your wisdom and fidelity, unless some special difficulty should occur, in which case you will please take our minds as occasion shall serve.'

At the same time it was voted, that the selectmen should order the money out of the Treasury to pay the Minute Men who marched on the alarm occasioned by the battle at Bunker Hill.

July 6th. Voted to raise the Bounty from £3, to £12 for the soldiers this town are to furnish to go to N. York.

## 1777.

Jan. 27th. Voted to raise the Bounty for the soldiers who

---

\* This seems to have been conceived in something of that holy ardor—that sublime spirit of patriotism and self-devotion, which (in a few months after) dictated those ever memorable words in the closing sentence of the Declaration of Independence ;—' we pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.'—immortal words, which sent such a thrill to the hearts of our countrymen and inspired them with such an unconquerable enthusiasm in the cause of freedom !

went to N. York in July last, to \$40 for each man, 'to such as will take it.'

March 18th. The Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety, this year, were Ed. Richards, Cyrel Carpenter, Samuel Tiffany, Jr. Elisha May, and Nathan Tyler.

April 2d. A meeting was held to see if the town will give some encouragement to the soldiery to enlist our proportion of the 15 Battallions granted by this State to join the Continental Army.

A committee was chosen to report upon the subject, and also to state what is an average on the whole since the war commenced, who reported, that the bounty and wages given by Congress and our Court, afforded a sufficient encouragement for the first years' service; that for the second year the town allow £2 per month in addition to the wages, and the same for the last year. £24 in addition to the bounty instead of the addition to their wages was offered to those who might prefer it.

The committee also reported, that the 8 months men, or those who went into service in consequence of Lexington battle, have no allowance; that the 6 weeks and 2 months men have no allowance; that the year's men be allowed £10 per man; that the Dorchester men have no allowance; that the men raised for 2 months in Sept. 1776, be allowed £7 per man; that the men raised for the Northern or Canada expedition be allowed £10 per man; that the Quarter men, or those raised for Howland's Ferry, be allowed £6 per man.

May 22d. Chose Capt. John Stearns and Mr. William Stanley Representatives. Appointed a committee to prepare instructions to said Representatives, viz. Rev. Peter Thacher, Capt. Elisha May, Col. John Daggett, Capt. Moses Wilmarth, Mr. Levi Maxcy. Their report, it appears, is not recorded.

Excused Capt. May from serving on Committee of Correspondence, &c.—and elected Stephen Fuller in his room. Voted to enlarge said committee, and added Zephaniah Bishop, Jacob Cushman, and John Sweetland.

### 1778.

Jan. 12th. A committee, consisting of Rev. Mr. Thacher, Capt. Elisha May, Col. Stephen Richardson, Dea. Stanley,

Capt. Caleb Richardson, Lieut. Elkanah Wilmarth, and Mr. John Wilkinson, was chosen to prepare instructions to the representatives of the town, relative to the Articles of Confederation. They presented a report which was accepted. It shows how perfectly convinced at that time our forefathers were of the value and importance of a firm union of the States to the well-being of the whole people.

To show the sentiments of the people a few extracts are given.

‘The subscribers, being chosen a committee ‘to consider what instructions it may be proper for them to give their representatives relative to the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union which are proposed to the consideration of the Legislatures of all the united States as the basis thereof forever,’ and also ‘relative to the resolves of the most Honorable Congress, of the 7th and 22d of November last,’ having maturely considered the said Articles and resolves, do humbly offer the following to the consideration of the town on this very important subject :

To Messrs. John Stearns, and William Stanley, Representatives of the town of Attleborough, Gentlemen, We shall rejoice at the arrival of the happy hour when the Independent States of North America have a Union established upon equitable terms to continue as long as the sun and moon endure. We are sensible of the utility and necessity of such a union to our present exertions and the success of them, as well as for the strength and flourishing condition of these States hereafter. We would, therefore, be as distant as possible from offering any thing to obstruct the speedy accomplishment of a thing so desirable ; yet we are constrained to desire explanation of the 4th paragraph in the 5th Article which determines, that, in deciding questions in the United States in Congress assembled, each State shall have one vote, which, if it exclude a voice in Congress proportioned to the number or estate of the different States, we apprehend, would be very unequal and not to be by any means consented unto, &c. &c. After stating specific objections to some other articles, the report concludes : ‘With the foregoing emendations and explanations, we desire you to

use your endeavors that the Delegates in Congress be impowered to ratify the aforesaid Articles of confederation and Perpetual union. As to the Resolves of the most Hon'ble Congress, we only observe upon the 5th and 6th Resolves, that the Regulating Bill formerly enacted and since repealed, though framed with an honest and good design, yet was, as we apprehend, very injurious to the good and honest people of this State, and was of no use to restrain oppressors and monopolizers, but rather put an advantage of oppression into their hands, and was a great means of sinking the value of our money, and, therefore, we expect and desire you to oppose the carrying of the said resolutions into execution.'

At the same meeting a committee was appointed to draft a Petition, which was sent to the General Court, earnestly praying for the repeal of an Act calling in the Bills of Credit or State Money. In this petition the people expressed their fears of the consequences which would result from that Act to the interests of the poor, &c. 'We have waited a long time,' say they, 'in hopes that you would repeal that Act without our troubling you with petitions; but as we have hitherto been disappointed, we are obliged, in justice to ourselves and to our posterity, earnestly to pray for the speedy repeal of that Act.' They express their opinion that the money ought to be called in by degrees, as it was issued, that is, one emission at a time, by taxing the inhabitants of the State until the whole is withdrawn.

March 17th. The Committee of Correspondence, &c. were Elkanah Wilmarth, Ebenezer Tiffany, and Ephraim Allen Jr.

May 12th. Voted to pay £30 to each soldier who shall enlist in the Continental Army to complete the number (13) required of this town by a late Resolve of the General Court. Also voted to give £30 more as a bounty.

May 21st. The Committee, chosen at a former meeting to consider the Constitution\* lately submitted to the people, not

---

\* This was the first frame of Government submitted to the people of this State. It was framed by a Convention 1778-9, and is commonly called the *Rejected Constitution*.

agreeing upon a report, the town appointed another committee of seven, viz. Rev. P. Thatcher, Rev. Habijah Weld, Elder Job Seamans, Doct. Bezaliel Mann, Col. John Daggett, Col. Stephen Richardson, Capt. John Stearns, who, finally, made a report. The vote in town stood 51 Affirmative, 76 Negative.

## 1779.

March 16. The Committee of Safety were Capt. Caleb Richardson, John Damon, Elijah Wellman.

May 18. Elisha May, Esq. was chosen representative.— Voted to empower our representative to vote for the calling of a Convention for the sole purpose of framing a new Constitution.

June 21st. Voted to raise 13 soldiers (to serve 9 months) as this town's proportion of the 15 Battallions furnished by this State to fill up the Continental Army. On the question of having a new Constitution there were 121 votes in favor ; and none in the negative recorded.

Aug. 2d. This town sent three members to the Convention which formed the present Constitution of Massachusetts.

'Chose Col. John Daggett, Capt. John Stearns and Major Elisha May to attend the Convention\* at Cambridge on the first of September next for the sole purpose of framing a new Constitution.

The town then took into consideration the proceedings of the Convention held at Concord for regulating articles of merchandize and country produce, and voted unanimously to accept of the doings of said Convention and to conform ourselves to the proposed regulations.

Chose Col. Stephen Richardson, Mr. Levi Maxcy, and Mr. Edward Richards members of the Convention to be held at Concord on the first Wednesday of October next.

---

\* This Convention met at the Meeting House in Cambridge Sept. 1779, continued till the 7th and then adjourned to Oct. 28th ; then met and continued till Nov. 11th and adjourned to Jan'y 5th 1780 at the Representative's Chamber, Boston ; then met and continued till March 2d and adjourned to June 7th ; then met and continued till June 16th when it was dissolved.

## 1780.

March 21st. The Committee of Safety were David Richardson, Capt. Moses Wilmarth, and William Morse.

May 2d. The new Constitution was referred to a committee.

June 14th. Voted to raise 29 soldiers, for 6 months, as this town's quota, to re-inforce the Continental Army, according to a Resolve of the General Court of June 5th 1780. They were to be paid by a tax on the town.

Sept. 4th. Voted to raise £12,000 to defray the expenses of the town the current year. Also voted to raise £1400 hard money to pay the soldiers who may engage to serve in the Continental Army for three and for six months, according to Resolves of the General Court of June 5th, 22d and 23d.—Elisha May Esq. was chosen representative the two following years—which brings us to the close of the Revolution. There were no transactions of particular interest relating to the war during these two years.

## MILITARY SERVICES.

To furnish a full statement of the military services which the citizens of this town rendered during the Revolutionary war,—to ascertain the number of soldiers who enlisted and the time for which they served—is not perhaps possible at this day. But some general accounts may be collected which will afford a tolerable view of their services.

It appears from the following anecdotes, that they were not slow in acting up to the resolutions which they had adopted.

In December 1774, the Committee of Safety gave notice that one Aldrich—a tory—who lived in Franklin, Mass. was selling British goods contrary to the resolutions of the General Court. Col. John Daggett of this town, a determined and resolute patriot, immediately issued orders to the several companies of this town to furnish a certain number of men, who being collected, marched, in a bitter cold night, for the place of Aldrich's residence, to put a stop to his business. They were joined on the way by volunteers from the neighboring towns. They arrived late at night, and surrounding his house, ordered

him out. He (and his associates who had assembled to defend him) at first attempted to resist with arms, threatening to fire upon them from the windows; and, assuming a tone of confidence, ordered them to depart. Upon this the besiegers were directed to point their guns towards the house. But finding that his opponents were in earnest, and that threats could not intimidate them, Aldrich at last came out. He was ordered to *pull off his hat*, while in the presence of the people's soldiers! Here, before the whole company, he was compelled to enter into an engagement not to 'vend any more British goods during the present unhappy controversy between the King and his colonies.' The prisoner was then released. The next morning he fled to Boston, and was never after known in these parts.

The captains from this town, who were engaged in this adventure, were Capt. S. Richardson, of the North East Company, Capt. Moses Wilmarth, S. E. Company, Capt. Jacob Ide, S. W. Company, Capt. Jon. Stanley, N. W. Company.

#### ASSONETT EXPEDITION.

Information having been received from the vigilant Committees of Safety, that the British had made a deposit of arms and ammunition at Assonett village, (Freetown) for the use of the loyalists, Col. Daggett of this town on the 9th of April, 1775, undertook an expedition for the purpose of seizing these arms and breaking up the combination which had been formed to favor the royal cause. He was accompanied by the several companies from this town with their captains (as before named, except Elisha May in the room of Jon. Stanley) and by some of the militia from Rehoboth and other towns. How many others were concerned in the adventure is not known.

They discovered 40 stands of arms and equipments in the possession of the tories, together with a large quantity of ammunition—the whole of which was taken by the patriots. All, who were suspected of favoring the British interest, were required to swear not to bear arms against their country. Nine staunch tories, who refused to take the oath of fidelity to the Colonies, were made prisoners, and put under

the charge of the company from East Attleborough—and forthwith marched to Taunton. Here their captors threatened to convey them to Sullivan's mines in Connecticut, if they would not comply. To avoid this alternative, they at last submitted, and took the oath of allegiance to their country. They were then dismissed.

This expedition deserves commemoration from the circumstance of its having been accomplished previous to the commencement of open hostilities in any other part of the country. It preceded, a few days, the first scene in the great drama which opened on the plains of Lexington. It was appearing in arms (though on a comparatively small scale) against the royal government. The patriots expected resistance, and were prepared with sufficient force to meet it.

The company of Minute Men—60 in number—under the command of Capt. Jabez Ellis, Enoch Robinson, Lieutenant, on the day of the battle at Lexington received orders to march instantly to Roxbury. We sat out at night\*—stopped a short time at Maxcy's, now Hatch's tavern—then went directly to Dedham—where we found two tables by the road side generously provided with food for the soldiers who might pass that way,—thus arranged to prevent any unnecessary delay—we snatched a hasty breakfast and marched on—reached Roxbury about day-light—and were then marched round and round Roxbury Meeting House, to make as much show of numbers as possible in view of the British. Our company remained there seven or eight days, and then were permitted to return home.†

---

\* The circumstances are given as related to the author by one of the survivors.

† Of one of these soldiers an anecdote is current among the survivors of that day. One Henry Richardson of this town, a bold and honest but heedless fellow, on his way to Roxbury swore he would have one of the Red coats before he went back. On his arrival at head-quarters,—the moment he had opportunity—he charged his long musket, and not thinking with Fallstaff, that 'discretion is the better part of valor,' coolly marched down in front of our lower guard, and taking deliberate aim at the opposite British sentinel, discharged his musket, and badly wounded him, as his companions were seen to lead him off the ground, and his place was supplied by another.

The same company went down to Roxbury the day of Bunker Hill battle—stayed about a fortnight. While there a small party of us went round to the Cambridge side to look at the British, but soon the captain of a Fort called out to us, that we had better not go in company, for the enemy would see us and fire at us; and sure enough, in a minute or two, a cannon ball came whizzing along close by us—and soon after, they sent us a bomb.

May 1st 1775. A company of 64 men enlisted for 8 months, under Capt. Caleb Richardson, in the Massachusetts Line (so called) and were stationed at Roxbury.

July 1776. Another company, principally from this town, enlisted 5 months in the recruits called the New Levies, under Capt. Caleb Richardson, and Stephen Richardson, Lieutenant, both of Attleborough, in the regiment of Col. Cary of Middleborough—Brigadier Gen. Fellowes, and did duty in and about New York, and were at the disastrous retreat from Long Island, &c.\* Some of the other members of this company were from the neighboring towns.

Sept. 1776. Another company was raised (part from Attleborough and part from Norton) under Capt. Elisha May of this town, in the regiment of Col. Thomas Carpenter of Rehoboth, and arrived at White plains before the battle.

In Oct. 1777, A whole company from this town marched to Rhode Island, under Capt. Stephen Richardson, and served one month in Spencer's 'Secret Expedition,' so called.

---

Much to his astonishment, our hero was immediately arrested (for doing, as he thought, so good a service) and put under guard; but, on the representations of his friends, was soon after discharged without further punishment, in consideration of his *good intentions*!

On meeting, afterwards, one of his townsmen, he exclaimed, with exultation,—'There, I told you I'd have one of them are British rascals.'

---

\* Capt. Moses Wilmarth, though he had served as a captain at home, yet from a spirit of patriotism entered the service as a private soldier, in the expedition to N. York. He was afterwards promoted, and continued, much attached to the service, during the war.

Joel Read of this town (who is now living) was wounded at N. York.

Several men from this town were drafted in the expedition against Ticonderoga in 1776. Served also at Saratoga.

Some of our soldiers enlisted for 3 years, and others during the war.

The above accounts do not include the many individual enlistments into the Continental army from this town, during the war.

#### MILITIA—RHODE ISLAND.

The Militia in this town and the vicinity were subject to frequent drafts of men (more or less) from December 1776 until after the evacuation of Rhode Island. Drafts were made in January, February, March, May, June, July, and August 1777, and at many other times. The men were stationed, the most of the time, at Howland's Ferry (Tiverton) and at Warwick.

The British took possession of Rhode Island in December 1776, and kept the surrounding country in a continual state of alarm. They occupied it above two years.

General Sullivan, during his expedition to Rhode Island, requested the Government of Massachusetts to send him a re-inforcement, in consequence of the French forces having abandoned him. In compliance with this request, the following orders were issued by the Council of this State, directing Col. Daggett of the 4th Regiment (including, as now, Attleborough, Mansfield, Norton, and Easton) to take charge of the detachment.

‘STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY,

*Council Chamber, Aug. 18th 1778.*

WHEREAS Major General Sullivan has represented to this Board that by reason of the absence of the French Troops, which he expected would co-operate with him, he is in pressing need of a re-inforcement, therefore,

*Ordered* that the following Colonels be and hereby are directed to detach from their respective Regiments the several numbers of men hereafter mentioned, and form them into companies of sixty eight men each including one captain, two subalterns, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer and one fifer, and see that they be equipped, armed, and accoutred,

as the law directs, and order them to march immediately to the Island of Rhode Island, and there to do duty during the campaign on said Island:—viz. From Col. Hawes' regiment, one hundred and fifty men including officers and one Major; from Col. Carpenter's regiment one hundred and fifty men including officers; from Col. Daggett's regiment one hundred and fifty men including officers and one Colonel; from Col. Hathaway's regiment one hundred and fifty men including officers and one Lieut. Colonel; from Col. Sproat's regiment one hundred and fifty men including officers; from Col. Williams' regiment one hundred and fifty men including officers:

And make return to the Council without loss of time.

A true Copy.

Attest, JOHN AVERY *Dy. Sec'y.*

In obedience to these orders a regiment (consisting of 900 men) was formed out of the several regiments above named, which repaired to R. Island, and served under the command of Col. Daggett of this town, during the remainder of the campaign. The company furnished by this town, as its quota under this levy, was commanded by Capt. Caleb Richardson. It was on the island at the time of the battle, and was partially engaged in it.\*

Col. Daggett also commanded the regiment (of which this town furnished a portion) from Bristol County in Spencer's Expedition. This regiment was supplied by alternate drafts from the companies in the northerly and middle parts of the county.

During the occupation of the Island by the British, as before observed, the militia from all the towns in the vicinity were frequently called upon to defend the shore, as constant apprehensions were entertained that the enemy would attempt to land. Attempts were indeed often made, but as often failed. Orders would sometimes come for all the militia to appear at some place near the Island. All hands would accordingly muster

---

\* Two men from this town, who had belonged to the Continental army, were killed in that action, viz. Larned Hall and one Dyer formerly of Rehoboth.

(whether by night or day) and make all haste for the scene of parade. They were sometimes thus detained a week—3 weeks—and even 6 weeks at a time. On the appearance of a sufficient force the enemy would for the time relinquish their design, and the greater part of the militia obtain leave to go home. But sometimes before they arrived home, orders would come for their immediate return. The yeomanry were thus often obliged to leave the plough in the furrow, the mown hay untouched, and the harvest rotting in the field.

*Anecdote of Fayette.*—While Sullivan was retreating from the Island, Fayette, who brought up the rear, just as he was leaving the field, espied a pick-axe, belonging to the American army, which had been accidentally left on the ground;—he instantly went back, dismounted and picked it up, exclaiming, in broken English, as he rode off with it on his shoulder, '*They sha'nt have de pick-axe!*'

The cannonade, (which was heavy) between the two armies, was distinctly heard and felt in this town, and produced extreme anxiety in every family.

The time of Bunker Hill battle was likewise a day of solemn feeling, and fearful expectation. The cannonade was distinctly heard at this distance (35 miles) and the occasion of it was fully recognized. It was so heavy as to shake the windows in the houses, and the plate upon the shelves. The earth trembled as in the heaviest thunder. The town was almost deserted by all able to bear arms. Women were in tears for the fate of fathers, husbands, and brothers who had gone to the scene of action.

From the preceding account of the civil transactions and the military services of this town, it appears satisfactorily that our citizens furnished their full proportion to the ranks of the patriot army, and did their duty faithfully in the day of trial.

In reviewing the proceedings in that contest which agitated the country previous to the commencement of the Revolution, one thing struck me as worthy of remark, (though not particularly noticed by historians) that the citizens of this State generally—the people as a body, felt a deeper interest—took a more active part—and exerted a more direct influence in the transactions of the day than the *people* of any other State.—The whole mass of our citizens seemed to be acting in con-

cert, animated with one spirit—and in pursuit of one object. Other States were indeed as zealously engaged in the great work, but it was rather through the Legislature or the Government, than by the direct influence of the people. But the citizens of this State entrusted it not to a few leaders or to any body of men to vindicate their violated rights; they were willing to do their part and to bear the burden themselves. Every town and almost every individual felt it a duty to put forth an effort in the cause.

It may be here remarked, that previous to this period, viz. 1745, Cumberland was separated from Attleborough, by Royal Charter, and annexed to Rhode Island.\*

---

\* The new boundaries established by this charter took from Massachusetts and annexed to Rhode Island a fine tract of land including all Bristol county, R. I. Tiverton, Newport county, and Cumberland, Providence county.

Cumberland comprised nearly half of the original town. Its area is about 28 square miles; and, taken together is an excellent tract of land. It is good for grain, and orcharding, and especially for grass which is cut in great abundance. Some parts of the town, however, are light and sandy.

It was incorporated in 1746. It was previously called Attleborough Gore. It is well adapted to manufacturing purposes, having three streams, Abbott's Run, Mill and Peter's Rivers, besides the Blackstone which is its western boundary. A few years ago it had eight cotton manufacturing establishments, running 5524 spindles; one woollen factory; two clothier's works; six grain mills; nineteen shops for building boats, in which are made annually about 700 boats, which are worth from 20 to 70 dollars each. It had besides, 1 nail factory, 1 marble mill, 306 dwelling houses, 280 electors, 3 companies of militia, 1 rifle corps, and part of a company of cavalry. Its population, in 1810, was 2,110. But the town has since materially increased in population and amount of business.

It had four religious societies, two Baptists', one Methodist, and one Quaker. Taxable property in 1815 was 528,220 dollars.

## GENEALOGY.

A brief genealogy of some of the earliest settlers in the town is annexed, which is intended to include, so far as I have been able to ascertain, the names of those who came into town previous to 1730; with the names of their children of the first generation, (space not permitting me to extend it any farther) and also the previous place of their settlement when known. This will not contain the names of many who have *all* either removed from town or whose families have become extinct.—These sketches must necessarily be imperfect, from the defects in the records and the general neglect of most families to preserve any knowledge of their remote ancestry. The discovery of many of these facts connected with the history of our ancestors, has been the result of fortunate accident.

Many of the first proprietors (who belonged to Rehoboth) or their descendants became the occupants of the lands which they had purchased. But in process of time the cheapness of the land invited many emigrants from various parts of the colonies of Massachusetts and Plymouth who either became shareholders or purchased Rights.\*

---

*Allen, Nehemiah*, son of Isaac Allen 1st of Rehoboth, married Anne Wilmarth, daughter of Thomas Wilmarth 2d, of that town, came to Attleborough about 1710. He had 5 children, viz. Isaac, John, Nehemiah, Daniel, Anne, who were born between the years 1711 and 1726.

*Atwell, Richard*, married Sarah Bolkcom (daughter of Alexander Bolkcom) had 5 children by her, Sarah, Amos, Anne, Richard, Ichabod, 1728—1739. His second wife was Mary Lawrence, by whom he had one son, William, born 1741.

*Barrows, Benajah*, ancestor of all of that name in this town. He came here about 1708 from Rehoboth where he had resided for a short time. His wife was Lydia Bucklin daughter of Joseph Bucklin one of the early settlers of that town—had 9 children, John born in Rehoboth 1707; Deborah b. 1711; Joseph, 1713; Nehemiah 1715; Benjamin March 1717—18;

---

\* Usually new comers, if they could not purchase a *share* in the Undivided lands, bought a *right* to lay out a definite number of acres in a division already granted.

Elijah March 1719-20; Lydia 1722; Ichabod 1724. He died Jan. 5, 1754.

*Blackinton, Penticost*, the ancestor of all the Blackingtons in town, came to Attleborough previous to 1702—from what place is not known. His wife's name was Mary. He had at least 4 children, Penticost, Mary, Benjamin, who came with him, and Hepzibeth who was born here Dec. 1702; and John and Penelope twins b. 1705 and both died 1706. Penticost the 1st died Sept. 24, 1715. His son Penticost married Rebecca Figgett—had 8 children, Penticost, b. 1716; Rebecca b. 1717; George b. 1720; Anne b. 1722; Mary b. 1724; John b. 1727; Othniel b. 1729; Peter b. 1731.

*Blanding, Obediah*, came from Rehoboth, son of William Blanding 1st of that name in Rehoboth,—married Elizabeth Weeks,—had 5 children, Ephraim, Samuel, Obediah, Elizabeth, Mehitabel, 1719—1727. Several others afterwards came here from that town, descendants of William 1st. viz. Daniel, Noah, Lamack, &c.

*Bishop William*, appears to be the first, came from Beverly or Salem about 1703. His wife's name was Dorothy. He had 8 children, Edward, Elizabeth, William, Martha, Rebecca, Baily, Dorothy, John, 1701—1715. His second wife was Tabitha Hadley, married 1719.

There were several others of this name, some of them, perhaps, brothers of the above, viz. Daniel, (who married Elizabeth Brown 1734) Samuel (married Mary —) Joseph (married Miriam Hodges) Thomas who married 'Sarah Hobel of Pequonick' and had one daughter born in New Brookfield N. Y. 1744.

*Bolkcom, Alexander*, the 1st, who came to Attleborough, previous to 1692; from whom all in town are descended. He married Sarah Woodcock, daughter of John Woodcock sen. and had 7 children, William b. Sept. 3, 1692; Katharine b. Feb. 7, 1694; Alexander b. April 4, 1696; John b. April 29, 1699; Baruck b. June 12, 1702; Sarah b. Feb. 8, 1703-4; Joseph b. Feb. 23, 1705-6.

He died Jan. 31, 1727-8. His son William married Mary Tyler, Oct. 3, 1713; Alexander m'd. Martha Obinton, May 14, 1725; Baruck m. Patience Blake; John m'd. Mary Grover, by whom he had 5 children, and afterward, Sarah Grover, by

whom he had 8 children ; Joseph m'd. Mary Parminter, March 21, 1733-4.

*Capron, Banfield*, was the first of that name who came to this country. From him all the Caprons in this vicinity are descended. The name of his first wife was Elizabeth. His children were Banfield, Joseph, Elizabeth Banfield, b. Oct. 22, 1684, Edward, John, Jonathan, b. March 10, 1705-6, Sarah b. March 11, 1708-9.

His wife Elizabeth died March 10, 1735. He married Dec. 16, 1735, Mrs. Sarah Daggett (relict of Dea. John Daggett) and died Aug. 25, 1752, at a very advanced age. He settled where the late Joab Daggett lived, and laid out the lands there. Tradition says, he came to this country alone when he was quite a lad, as a cabin-boy, to seek his own fortune.

*Carpenter*, Josiah, Noah, William, Obediah, &c. came to Attleborough from Rehoboth, and were all descendants of Samuel and William Carpenter, two of the earliest of that name in Rehoboth. William Carpenter was admitted an inhabitant of that town March 28, 1645. He was admitted a freeman of Massachusetts, May 13, 1640.

Noah was the son of William of Rehoboth, b. March 28, 1672 married Sarah Johnson, Dec. 3, 1700—by whom he had 13 children, Noah, Miriam, Sarah, Stephen, Asa, Mary (born in Rehoboth) Margaret, Simon (died infant) Isaiah, Simon, Martha, Elisha, Amy. He married Ruth Follet, May 1727, by whom he had one daughter, b. May 1728.

*Claflin*, (formerly Mc'Claflin\*) *Antipas*, came here from Sudbury, Mass. had 3 children after his arrival in this town, viz. Hepzebeth, b. Nov. 17, 1717 ; Antipas and Ebenezer, twins, b. Feb. 8, 1720-21. His wife's name was Sarah. Other sons probably came with him, Noah, Phinehas, &c.

*Cutting*, the first and only one of this name, who came here, was Aaron. His son Aaron, Jr. married Ruth Pratt, 1749, (who died July 26, 1753) and for his second wife, Sarah Tucker, by both of whom he had 9 children.

*Daggett, John*, ancestor of all the Daggetts here and in Con- came to Attleboro' from Chilmark, Marthas' Vineyard, about

---

\* Sometimes spelt Meclothlin, and in one place, (R. N. P. Rec. p. 336) Mack Cleaulan—a proof of the variation which names undergo in the course of a few generations. Tradition says the family originated in Scotland.

1709, with his wife Sarah, and 9 children, 4 sons and 5 daughters, viz. Mayhew, Ebenezer, Thomas, Napthali, Abigail, (who m'd. Ebenezer Guild, Oct. 12, 1714) Jane, (m'd. Caleb Hall, Nov. 9, 1721) Zilpha, (m'd. Nathaniel Robinson, July 18, 1721) Patience, (m'd. Noah Robinson, Oct. 4, 1723) Mary, (m'd. John Titus, Jan. 18, 1727-8) all of Attleborough.

Ebenezer married Mary Blackinton, (daughter of Penticost the 1st) Nov. 9, 1721; Mayhew married Joanna Biven, (of Deerfield, Mass.) Oct. 11, 1709; Thomas married Sarah Stanley, (daughter of Stanley) March 21, 1722-3.\*

*Day, Samuel*, appears to be the first—came from Rehoboth. His wife was Priscilla.—He had several children, Samuel, Edward, b. June 9, 1705; John, b. Sept. 29, 1708; Priscilla, b. Nov. 22, 1711; Benjamin, b. (in Attleborough) April 28, 1720; and perhaps others.

One Robert Day was admitted freeman of Massachusetts, May 6, 1635; and Ralph Day, May 1645.

*Foster, John*, came from Dorchester about 1712,—married Margaret Ware—had 13 children, John, b. 1706; Robert, b. 1707; Ebenezer, b. 1709, (these three b. in Dorchester) Margaret, b. (in Wrentham) 1712; Benjamin, b. 1714; Jonathan, b. 1715; Sarah, b. 1718; Timothy, b. 1720; Nathan, b. 1722; Esther, b. 1724; Michael, b. 1725; (and died 1726) Michael, b. 1727; Mary, b. 1729.

*Foster, Alexander*, (another who came to town) whose wife's name was Suanna,—had 6 children, Elizabeth, Sarah, Alexander, Edward, Suanna, Jane—from 1734 to 1746.

*Freeman, David* and *Jonathan*, inhabitants of Rehoboth, came to Attleborough—probably the ancestors of all the Freemans in this town. The name of David's wife was Mary. Some of

---

\*By recent research I am able to trace this family still farther back: and give the result for the information of numerous descendants here & elsewhere.

John the 1st of Attleborough, was the son of Thomas Daggett, Esq. of Edgartown, who married Hannah, the oldest daughter of Gov. Mayhew, and was brother to Thomas, Samuel, Joshua, Israil, Mercy.

Thomas the father (who was brother of John the first of Rehoboth) is supposed to be the son of John Daggett, the first, who came to this country in 1630, and was settled in Watertown 1642, and probably removed to Marthas' Vineyard with Gov. Mayhew, when he settled the Island, in 1644. There is reason to believe that John the first of Watertown had a brother Thomas who came to New England.

his children were Ebenezer, b. April 13, 1684 ; Hannah, b. April 24, 1686 ; Margaret, b. Feb. 9, 1688-9.

Jonathan's children were William, Mary, Jonathan, Mercy, Samuel, Anne, David, 1690—1704.

*French, John*, son of John French 1st of Rehoboth,—came from that town about 1710—married Martha Williams—had five children, John (b. in Rehoboth) Ephraim and Martha twins (died infants) Hannah, Samuel, 1709—1714. His 2d wife was Abigail White, married May 23, 1728, by whom he had 2 children, John b. 1729, Thomas b. 1730.

Thomas brother of the preceeding, also came from Rehoboth—married Mary Brown, Jan. 5, 1720-1,—had 6 children, Thomas, Christopher, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Bridget, Sarah, Hannah, 1722—1738.

*Fuller.* This name is numerous. The first are not all known. One was John—whose children were Ithaman, Abigail, John, Jeduthan, Abial, Joanna, 1702—1719. His 2d wife was Mary Follet—had 1 daughter Sarah b. 1721.

Jonathan Fuller was an early settler of Rehoboth. Robert and William Fuller admitted freemen Mass. 2d June 1641.

*Guild, Ebenezer*, came from Dedham—married Abigail Daggett (daughter of Dea. John Daggett 1st) 12th Oct. 1714 ; had several children, Joseph, Naphtali, Ebenezer, 1716—1722.—John and Benjamin also came with him.

*Hall.* Edward and John came from England—soon to Taunton—thence to Rehoboth. *Ephraim*, son of John, came to Attleborough. John was admitted fr. Mass. 14th May 1634 ; Edward, 2d May, 1638. John married Mary Newell of Roxbury, 18th Nov. 1684. Edward died 27th Nov. 1670.

Christopher Hall also came to Attleborough—had two sons, Caleb and Joshua.

*Ide, Nicholas, Lieut.* (son of Nicholas 1st of Rehoboth, who was there as early as Apr. 9, 1645) was born Nov. 1654 ; married Mary Ormsby, Dec. 27, 1628 ; had 7 children, Nathaniel, Jacob, Martha, Patience, John, Benjamin, 1678—1693—all born in Rehoboth. Nicholas (by his 2d wife Eliza) b. in Attleborough July 25, 1697. Nicholas sen. died 5th June 1723. Nath died 14th March 1702-3.

*Jacob* (2d son) married Sarah Perry. His children were Sarah, b. Dec. 13, 1712 ; Jacob, Sept. 26, 1723.

*John* (3d son) married Mehetable Robinson May 14, 1719—had 4 children, Sarah, John, Benjamin, Amos, 1720—1729.

*Ingraham, Joseph, Benjamin, Jeremiah, Elijah*, descendants of Benjamin, and of Jarrett whose name is on the list of Purchasers, came from Rehoboth. Joseph married Mary Shepardson.

*Elijah* married Sarah Ide—had 8 children, Elijah, Jabez, Sarah and William twins, Betty, Remember, Comfort, Jeremiah, 1734—1746.

*Maxcy, Alexander*,\* came from Gloucester, Mass. with his family, about 1721,—settled on John Woodcock's farm and continued the public house. His wife's name was Abigail.—He died Sept. 20, 1723. His children were Alexander (who died April 2, 1724) Joseph, Josiah, Abigail, (who married Jacob Hascall of Gloucester) Mary (who married Wm. Ware May 4, 1726) Esther (who married Nehemiah Ward Dec. 3d 1728) and Benjamin.

*Josiah* married Mary Everett daughter of Joshua Everett, had 11 children. His 2d son Levi (whose wife was Ruth daughter of Jacob Newell) was the father of Jonathan, Milton, and Virgil, graduates of Brown University—eminent in literary and professional life. Levi, another son, who possessed superior talents though not liberally educated—died at the South.

*Martin, John, Robert, and Timothy*, came from Rehoboth.—Timothy married Mary, daughter of John Fuller, then of Rehoboth, afterwards of Attleborough,—had three children, Timothy, Sarah, Abel.

Three of this name were admitted freemen Massachusetts, Thomas, Martin, 22d May, 1639; John and Robert 13th May, 1640. John settled in Rehoboth.

*Moore, Alexander*, married Alice Chaffee—had 8 children, Samuel, Comfort, Jane, Betsey, Esther, Alice, Kate, Hannah.

*Newell, Jacob*, came here from Roxbury or Dorchester, about 1715, bringing with him his family of several sons, Jacob, Joseph, Ephraim, &c. Jason b. here, Dec. 12, 1717. His wife's name was Joyce. He settled near the first M.-House, and bought a part of Willett's farm, and, according to tradition, distributed it among his 7 sons, which still remains in 7 divisions.

---

\* It is said that a brother came with him to this country, and settled in one of the Southern States.

*Peck, Hezekiah*, (son of Nicholas Peck, of Rehoboth) came to Attleborough about 1700, with his family—married Deborah Cooper, of the former place—had 7 children, Deborah, Judith, Hannah, Hezekiah, Rachel, b. in Rehoboth; Petronella, Perthenah, 1687—1711.

Several other Pecks came here from Rehoboth, viz. John and Elisha, brothers of Hezekiah; Daniel and Ichabod, sons of Jathniel who was the son of Joseph 1st.\*

*Read, Daniel*, came to Rehoboth about 1716, with five children, Beriah, Ichabod, Hannah, Abigail, Esther, Daniel (died infant) 1707—1713. His first wife was Elizabeth Bosworth; his second was Eliz. Ide by whom he had eight children, Daniel, Noah, Eliz. Sam. Abigail, Rachel, Benj. Thankful, 1716—1734.†

At least two other Reads came here from Rehoboth, Moses, and Ezra. Those of this name have been very numerous in this town.

---

\* He came to Rehoboth from Hingham, Mass. and probably to that place from Hingham, England.

Mr. Joseph Peck and Mr. Robert Peck were admitted freemen, Mass. 13th March 1638—9. Robert was ordained teacher at Hingham 8th Nov. 1638; and 27th Oct. 1641, returned to England with his family. Joseph's name appears on the Rehoboth records April 9, 1645. On his way from Hingham the following accident befel him.

1645. I. 25. 'Another strange accident happened by fire about this time. One Mr. Peck and three others of Hingham, being about with others to remove to Seaconk (which was concluded by the Commissioners of the United Colonies to belong to Plymouth,) riding thither, they sheltered themselves and their horses in an Indian wigwam, which by some occasion took fire and (although they were all four in it, and labored to their utmost, &c.) burnt three of their horses to death, and all their goods to the value of 50 pounds.'

One John Peck was in Rehoboth as early as 29th March, 1645. (*Win. Jour. II.* 216.)

Nicholas, John, Joseph, Jr. are supposed to be sons of Mr. Joseph, who came with him to Rehoboth; if this supposition be true, then all of the name are descended from him.

† Thomas Read, admitted freeman, Mass. April 1, 1634; John, 13th May 1640; William, 14th Dec. 1638; Esdras, 2d June, 1641. John and Thomas (perhaps sons of John) settled in Rehoboth, and were the ancestors of the numerous progeny of Reads in that town and Attleborough.

*Richards, Edward* and *Nathan* came from Dedham. From them are descended those of that name in this town. The first in Dedham was Edward who was admitted freeman 1641. (*Worthington's His. Ded.*)

*Richardson, Stephen, John, William, Seth*, brothers, came to Attleborough. Seth married Mary Brown. His children were Stephen, Seth, (died) Mary, Abigail, Sarah, Seth, Phebe, 1714—1725.

Several others also came to this town, Timothy, Francis &c. Ezekiel Richardson, freeman, Mass. 18th May, 1631; Samuel, 2d May, 1638.

*Robinson*.—Six of this name came to Attleborough from Rehoboth, viz. Nathl. Noah, John, Timothy, Samuel, Ebenezer.\*

*Nathaniel*, married Zilpha, (3d daughter of Dea. John Daggett 1st,) July 18, 1721; had 9 children, Nathan, Nathaniel, George, Zilpha, Eliz. Elihu, Amos, Abigail, Margaret, 1722—1739.

*Noah* married Patience (4th daughter of John Daggett 1st) Oct. 4, 1722—had 7 children, Zephaniah, Mary, Elijah, William, Huldah, Enoch, Comfort, 1723—1740.

*John* married Thankful Newell and had several descendants. *Timothy* married Eliz. Grant. *Samuel* married Mary Cooper first wife, Mary Ide second wife.

*Ebenezer* married Eliz. Read, and had 8 children, Mehitable, Sarah, Ebenezer, Samuel, Eliz. Ezekiel, Dan, Martha, 1721—1738.

*Stanley, Thomas, Nathaniel, Joseph, Samuel, Jacob, John*, came from Topsfield, Mass. and settled near the Falls. The last three were brothers. Thomas and Samuel were here in 1707; Jacob came about 1717. Thomas married Mary Gould—had 12 children, Thomas, Mary, Phebe, Nathaniel, Samuel, Daniel, David (died infant) Martha, William, Abigail, Priscilla, David.

*Jacob* married Eliz. Guild. His children were Jacob, Benjamin, Eliz. (died infant) Deborah, Jon. Eliz. Solomon, Abigail.

---

\* They were descendants of George Robinson 1st of Rehoboth, whose name is on our List of Purchasers. He married Joanna Ingraham.

William Robinson, freeman Mass. at Salem, 27th December, 1642; John, 2d June, 1641.

*Nathaniel* married Sarah Blackinton. His children were Serviah, Sarah, Hepzibeth, Abner, Amy, Sibula, Israil, Pentecost, Anne, Nathaniel; 1721—1744.

*Starkey, Andrew*, came here about 1708. His first wife was Mehitable Waite, by whom he had two children, Mehitable b. May 1709; John b. July 1712. His second wife was Catharine (daughter of Alexander Bolcom) by whom he had three children, Jemima, Andrew, Thomas, 1722—1733. Andrew sen. died 16th August 1740.

*Sweet, Henry*, was here about 1690,—had 5 children, John, Phillip (died infant) Thomas, Michael (died infant) Dorothy. He was one of the earliest, if not the first of that name.—Died 8th December 1704.—Probably a descendant of John, admitted freeman 1641.

*Sweetland, John*, came from Marblehead, with several others of that name; three of his children were Benjamin, Deborah, Samuel, 1703—1711. He died 9th June 1711.

*Tyler, Ebenezer*, had 9 children, Ebenezer, Elizabeth, Phebe, Catharine, Hannah, d. John, Hannah, William, 1714—1731.\*

*Samuel* married Mary Capron—had 11 children, Mary, d. Samuel, d. Moses, Samuel, Mary, Nathan, Huldah, Habijah and Elizabeth twins, Ebenezer, Benjamin d.

*Wilkinson, John*, came here about 1700—married Rachel Fales. His children were 8, John, Joseph, Rachel, Mary, Hepzibeth, Abigail, Sarah, Hannah, 1702—1723. He purchased Capt. Willett's share in the undivided lands, probably of his son Andrew. Died 24th Jan. 1724—5.

John Wilkinson, Malden, died Dec. 1675.—*Far. Reg.*

*Wilmarth, Thomas*,† came to Attleborough about 1708,—married Deborah Peck—had 7 children, Mary, Thomas, Deborah, Elizabeth, Anne, Ebenezer, Eliphalet, 1709—1728.

Several other Wilmarths came from that town, Samuel, (son

---

\* Tyler, Abraham, Haverhill 1650, died 6th May 1673. Job, Andover 1653, had a son Moses who died 1727 aged 85, having had 10 sons. Nathaniel, Lynn 1642.—*Far. Reg.*

† Grandson of Thomas Wilmarth Sen. who came into Rehoboth as early as March 23, 1645, with his wife and children. This name was anciently spelt Wilmot.

of Thomas 2d of Rehoboth) Jonathan, Nathan, Stephen, (sons of Jonathan of that place) Daniel, &c.

The Deanes came from Taunton; Ellises, Drapers, &c. from Dedham, subsequent to 1730.

It is not expected that the foregoing list includes *all* who came previous to that period. The names of the original ancestors of some could not be ascertained.

One name was omitted in its proper place. Bourne, Andrew, came (it is supposed from G. Britain) to Attleborough, about 1720, and settled in the East part of the town. All of that name in this vicinity are descended from him.

**LIST OF THE NAMES OF PERSONS NOW IN TOWN, WITH THE NUMBER OF EACH NAME AFFIXED, TAKEN FROM THE TAX LIST OF 1832.**

**A.** Albey 1—Alger 2—Aldrich 1—Allen 8—Alexander 1—Arnold 3—Atherton 2—Atwell 1.

**B.** Babcock 3—Bacon 2—Barrows 8—Bates 6—Bailey 1—Baldwin 1—Bishop 3—Blake 1—Blackington 9—Blackwell 1—Blanchard 1—Blanding 4—Bliss 5—Bolkcom 8—Bosworth 1—Bourne 1—Bowen 5—Bragg 2—Briggs 7—Brown 4—Bruce 1—Bullock 2.

**C.** Capron 11—Cargill 1—Carpenter 14—Chace 2—Chandler 1—Cheever 1—Chickering 1—Clafin 14—Clark 2—Clayes 1—Clinlock Mc 1—Cobb 2—Coddington 3—Cole 2—Colvin 1—Cook 1—Cooper 3—Cornell 2—Crocker 1—Crowningshield 1—Cutting 1—Cummins 5—Cushman 3.

**D.** Daggett 11—Dart 1—Day 2—Davis 1—Deane 11—Derry 1—Dodge 2—Draper 17—Drake 2—Dunham 2.

**E.** Earl 1—Eddy 1—Eldridge 3—Ellis 3—Everett 4.

**F.** Fales 1—Fairbrother 2—Field 3—Fisher 6—Follet 2—Forbush 1—Foster 6—Franklin 1—Freeman 7—French 7—Frost 1—Fuller 21—Ferguson 1—Furthington 1.

**G.** Gardner 2—Gay 1—George 2—Gilbert 1—Giles 1—Goff 1—Grant 3—Green 3—Guild 2.

**H.** Hall 4—Hamar 1—Harkness 1—Harris 2—Hatch 4—Haven 2—Hayward 1—Hicks 1—Hitchcock 1—Holman 3—Holmes 7—Horr 2—Horton 1—Hunt 2—Huntress 1.

**I.** Ide 6—Ingalls 1—Ingraham 4.

**J.** Jackson 2—Jewett 2—Jillson 5—Jones 1.

**K.** Kent 1—Kempton 2—Knowles 1.

**L.** Lane 1—Latham 1—Lathrop 1—Lavery 1—Lee 1—Lewis 1—Lindsey 3.

**M.** Mann 1—Martin 6—Mason 3—May 3—Metcalf 1—More 3—Morse 6—Morey 1.

**N.** Newell 4—Newman 1.

**P.** Paine 3—Parmenter 3—Peck 6—Perry 5—Pidge 2—Pierce 3—Pike 5—Phillip 1—Pond 1—Price 3.

**R.** Read 9—Richards 22—Richardson 15—Riley 1—Rhodes 2—Robinson 9—Rogers 1—Rounds 1.

**S.** Sanford 2—Savery 1—Shaw 3—Sheldon 1—Shepard 1—Shepardson 1—Skinner 1—Slack 3—Smith 1—Sprague 1—Stanley 13—Starkey 3—Stearns 1—Strafford 1—Stratton 1—Streeter 1—Swan 1—Sweet 6.

**T.** Thacher 2—Thayer 3—Thurber 2—Tiffany 2—Tift 3—Tingley 2—Titus 2—Towne 3—Tripp 3—Tucker 1—Turner 1—Tyler 1.

**W.** Walker 1—Walton 1—Walcot 3—Warner 1—Welman 4—Westcot 2—Wheeler 1—Whipple 3—Whiting 4—White 7—Wilder 2—Williams 6—Wilmarth 11—Witherell 4—Withington 2—Woodcock 2—Wood 3—Worseley 1—Wright 1.

There are about 200 different names (surnames) on the List, and 618 different persons. There are, of course, some other names in town which are not in the assessor's Rates; but the above catalogue includes the most of them. These items, indifferent to some, may be curiosities to others.

## LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES

From this town from its Incorporation, in 1694, to 1833. Elections were in May unless otherwise designated.

1709*	David Freeman		Timothy Tingley
1710	David Freeman		Samuel Tyler
1711	David Freeman		Ahasel Read
1712	Capt Joseph Brown†	1738	John Foster, Esq.
1713	Mr. David Freeman	1739	John Robbins
	Lieut. Nicholas Ide§	1740	John Robbins
1714	Lieut. Nicholas Ide	1741	Capt. Mayhew Daggett
1715	David Freeman	1742	Capt. Mayhew Daggett
1716	David Freeman	1743	Maj. John Foster
1717	David Freeman	1744	Capt. Mayhew Daggett
1718	David Freeman	1745	Capt. Samuel Tyler
1719	Jeremiah Whipple	1746	Perez Bradford, Esq.†
1720	Dea. John Daggett	1747	Capt. Samuel Tyler
	David Freeman	1748	Capt. Samuel Tyler
1721	David Freeman	1749	Capt. Samuel Tyler
1722	<i>No one would accept.</i>	1750	Benjamin Day
1723	Capt. John Foster	1751	Benjamin Day
1724	Mr. Nathl. Carpenter	1752	Benjamin Day
1725	Capt. John Foster	1753	Benjamin Day
1726	Capt. Joseph Brown	1754	<i>Name not on record.</i>
1727	Capt. Joseph Brown	1755	<i>Name not on record.</i>
1728	Capt. Joseph Brown	1756	Lieut. Josiah Maxcy
1729	Mr. Nathl. Carpenter	1757	" Josiah Maxcy
1730	Capt. John Foster	1758	" Josiah Maxcy
1731	Capt. John Foster	1759	Dea. Benjamin Day
1732	Capt. John Foster	1760	Japhesh Bicknell
1733	Nathaniel Carpenter	1761	Stephen Fuller
1734	<i>Sent an excuse.</i>	1762	Stephen Fuller, Esq.
1735	Nathaniel Carpenter	1763	Stephen Fuller, Esq.
1736	Capt. Mayhew Daggett	1764	Dea. Ebenezer Lane
1737	John Robinson	1765	Dea. Ebenezer Lane
	Capt. Mayhew Daggett	1766	Dea. Ebenezer Lane
	John Foster, Esq.	1767	Dea. Ebenezer Lane

\* The reader will perceive that no representative was chosen during the first fourteen years after the incorporation. The reason is given in the extracts from the town records, page 22, 24.

† Son of Mr. John Brown of Rehoboth (well known in the history of the Old Colony) came here about 1769 from Kingston, R. I. to which he had removed about 1702. In this list the *titles*, generally given according to the custom of the times, are retained as they appear on record.

‡ Nov. 1713.

¶ June 1720.

‡ July 22d, 1746, Capt. Mayhew Daggett was chosen.

1768	John Daggett	1805	Ebenezer Bacon
1769	John Daggett	1806	Joel Read, Esq.
1770	John Daggett	1807	Ebenezer Bacon
1771	John Daggett	1808	Joel Read
1772	John Daggett	1809	Joel Read
1773	Capt. John Daggett	1810	Joel Read
1774	Capt. John Daggett	1811	Joel Read
1775	Capt. John Daggett		John Richardson
1776	Capt. John Stearns		Benjamin Bolkcom
1777	Capt. John Stearns	1812	John Richardson
	William Stanley		Joel Read
1778	Capt. Elisha May		Benjamin Bolkcom
1779	Capt. Elisha May	1813	Joel Read
1780	Capt. Elisha May		Benjamin Bolkcom
	John Daggett		John Richardson
1181	Elisha May	1814	Capt. Thomas French
1782	<i>Name not found.</i>		Jabez Newell
1783	Col. Steph. Richardson	1815	A. Richardson, Jr.
1784	Elisha May, Esq.	1816	Ebenezer Daggett Esq.
1785	Col. S. Richardson	1817	<i>Sent no one.</i>
1786	Capt. Ebenezer Tyler	1818	" " "
1787	William Stanley	1819	" " "
1788	Elisha May, Esq.	1820	A. Richardson Jr.
1789	Capt. C. Richardson	1821	A. Richardson Jr.
1790	Maj. Ebenezer Tyler	1822	Ebenezer Daggett Esq.
1791	Elisha May( Esq.	1823	Ebenezer Daggett Esq.
1792	Maj. Ebenezer Tyler	1824	<i>Sent no one.</i>
1793	Elisha May, Esq.	1825	William Blackinton
1794	Elisha May, Esq.	1826	William Blackinton
1795	Elisha May, Esq.	1827	George Ellis
1796	Elisha May, Esq.		Elkanah Briggs
1797	Elisha May, Esq.		A. Richardson Jr.
1798	Elisha May, Esq.	1828	George Ellis
1799	Col. Ebenezer Tyler		Elkanah Briggs Esq.
1800	Elisha May, Esq.	1829	Elkanah Briggs Esq.
1801	Elisha May, Esq.	1830	Elkanah Briggs Esq.
1802	Maj. Ebenezer Tyler	1831	Abijah M. Ide Esq.
1803	Maj. Ebenezer Tyler	1832	Abijah M. Ide Esq.
1804	Maj. Ebenezer Tyler	1833	Abijah M. Ide Esq.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

REV. NAPH TAL I DAGGETT, D. D. President of Yale College, was the son of Ebenezer Daggett and Mary his wife, and was born in Attleborough (at the residence of the late Ebenezer Daggett Esq.) Sept. 8th 1727. He was the second son among 8 children. His father dying while he was yet young, he was left under the direction of a mother, who was, however, in every respect, peculiarly qualified to discharge the duties which devolved upon her. He soon after commenced studies preparatory to college. He entered Yale College in 1744, and graduated in 1748, at the age of 21. He was distinguished during his college life for industry and close application.

He was settled as minister of Smithtown on Long Island in 1751. In Sept. 1755 he was elected the first Professor of Divinity in Yale College, which appointment he accepted, and removed to New Haven, and was inducted into office on the 4th of March following.\* This office he held during his life. After the resignation of Mr. Clap Sept. 10th 1766, he officiated as President till April 1st 1777, when he resigned the office, but still continued to hold that of Professor of Divinity. The learned Dr. Stiles was his successor in the Presidency.

During the barbarous attack on New Haven by the British army, in July 1779, he took an active part in the defence of the country, and was distinguished for his resolution and intrepidity.† He was taken prisoner and came near losing his life.

---

\* The foundation of this Professorship was laid in 1746 by a donation from the Hon. Phillip Livingston, of New York; and having received a considerable addition by another donation from Mr. Gershom Clark, of Lebanon, with some appropriations by the college, it afforded a sufficient salary for the support of such an office, which was accordingly established in 1755. A house for the use of the incumbent was erected by subscription; and finished in 1758.

† He had made himself obnoxious by his open, and active opposition to the British cause. He had often inculcated upon the students under his charge,—in the pulpit and in the lecture-room,—the duty of resistance to British oppression. He had therefore incurred the special displeasure of the invaders. He had openly preached and prayed against the success of their cause. He knew no difference between preaching and practicing; and when the crisis came, he carried his own principles into action. He shouldered his musket and went into the field with the rest to repel the in-

Dr. Daggett died, (in consequence of the wounds he had received on that occasion) Nov. 25th 1780 at the age of 53. He presided over the University about eleven years, and held the office of Professor of Divinity twenty-five years. Possessed of a strong, clear, and comprehensive mind, he applied himself with assiduity and success to the various branches of knowledge, particularly to the learned languages and divinity. Dr. Holmes in his life of President Stiles, says, 'he was a good classical scholar; well versed in moral philosophy; and a learned divine.' Clearness of understanding and accuracy of thought were characteristics of his mind. He received the honorary degree of Doctor in Divinity from Yale College, and also from Nassau, New Jersey. He published a sermon on the death of President Clap 1767; another delivered at the ordination of Rev. Ebenezer Baldwin 1770; and a third delivered at the ordination of Rev. J. Howe, 1773.

---

COL. JOHN DAGGETT, an elder brother of the preceding—born Sept 2d 1724 or 5—was one of the principal public characters and leading men of the town, especially during the trying period of the Revolution. He and Col. May were the two

---

vaders. He was taken prisoner by the enemy. They beat, and bruised him, and offered him every indignity in their power. His clerical character, in their eyes, was no exemption from the most outrageous abuses. They demanded of him, who he was—he unhesitatingly replied, "My name is Naphthali Daggett—I am one of the officers of Yale College—I require you to release me." "But we understand you have been in the habit of praying against our cause." "Yes—and I never made more sincere prayers in my life."

He was at first left for dead on the ground. He was saved by the interpidity of the lady into whose house he had been conveyed. After the British had retired, an officer and a file of soldiers were sent back to convey him a prisoner on board their transports. They came to the house and inquired for him, and were answered by the lady (who appeared at the door, and resolutely refused to admit them) that he was so badly wounded, it would be impossible to convey him on board alive. "My orders," said the officer, "are positive, to take him with me." But you would not surely carry away a dying man;—he is now in the agonies of death. After repeated demands and refusals, the officer finally determined to return and report the case to his superior and ask for further orders. But he never came back after his prisoner.

on whom the town placed the utmost reliance. He was possessed of a strong and sound mind, and was marked by a resolute and decided character. He was a puritan in the plainness and simplicity of his manners, and was a firm friend to the civil institutions and republican customs of New England.

He was commissioned one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace under the Provincial Government before the Revolution. He took an early and decided stand (with many other patriotic citizens of this town) in the commencement of those proceedings which produced the Revolution. He was a member of the Provincial Congress which assembled at Cambridge. For a long succession of years he was elected a member of the Legislature ; and was also a member of the Convention which formed the Constitution. He was generally called to serve on the most important committees which were raised in town meeting to consider the many difficult subjects which were then brought before the people during and subsequent to the Revolution. Col. Daggett commanded the regiment from the county of Bristol both in Spencer's and Sullivan's Expeditions on Rhode Island,—in '77 and '79.

At home he was extensively employed as a surveyor, and was engaged in various other kinds of public business such as the ordinary transactions of life require between citizens. He died universally respected, January 20th 1803, at the age of 79.

---

A third brother, DOCT. EBENEZER DAGGETT, was a respectable physician, who settled in Wrentham village where he acquired an extensive practice. He married Miss — Metcalf, daughter of Timothy Metcalf Esq. of Wrentham, by whom he had several children.

His son, Rev. Herman Daggett, graduated at Brown University in 1788, and pursued his professional studies with Dr. Emmons of Franklin. He was settled, a few years, in the ministry on Long Island ; and afterwards removed to Ridgefield, Connecticut, and finally to Cornwall, where he died in 1832. He was principal of the Foreign Mission School established at the latter place.

**DOCT. BEZALEEL MANN**—a well known and worthy physician of this town,—deserves a notice in these sketches. He was a descendant of Rev. Samuel Mann the first minister of Wrentham. He studied his profession with Dr. Hewes of Foxborough, and commenced business in this town sometime previous to 1750. Dr. Mann had the reputation of being a skillful physician, and had acquired an extensive circle of practice. His character is justly portrayed in his epitaph.

“Bezaleel Mann mort. die Octo. tert. 1796, an. aetat. 74. Early imbued with the principles of moral rectitude, he sustained through the diversified concerns of a long and active life, the character of an honest man. As a physician, he commanded, during the period of near 50 years, that unlimited confidence and respect, which talents alone can inspire. The features of his mind were sketched by the glowing pencil of nature, filled up with qualities that adorn humanity, and shaded with few infirmities the frequent attendants on mental excellence.”

“Bebe Mann,\* his wife, mort. die Octo. tert. 1793, aetat. 61. She was a person of bright genius, of few words, and much reserved in mind. From early youth she marked all her paths with virtue, and timely took the advice Christ gave to his disciples, and made to herself a friend of the mammon of unrighteousness, and when she failed, could, with christian confidence, say, that her witness was in heaven and her reward on high.

This stone is erected by the grateful hand of filial piety to protect the awful dust of revered parents.”

These inscriptions may be found in Alden’s valuable Collection of Epitaphs.

Dr. Mann had several sons who entered the professions.—His son Preston, who is a physician, was graduated at Brown University, and settled in Newport, R. I. where he is now living. Another son, John Milton, was also a graduate at Brown University, became a physician, and removed to the State of N. York, where he was drowned in attempting to cross the River Hudson. His second daughter married one of his students, Dr. Seth Capron of this town, who, with another son, Newton,

---

\* She was a daughter of Mr. Ezekiel Carpenter of this town.

removed to the State of New York, where they are now living. His second son, Herbert, was educated a physician, and entered, as surgeon, on board the privateer *General Arnold*, Capt. Magee, and was lost in that terrible storm which ensued, in Plymouth Harbor, 26th Dec. 1778. The stone which is here erected to his memory contains the following epitaph :

‘ In memory of doctor Herbert Mann, who, with 119 sailors with Capt. James Magee, master, went on board the brig *General Arnold*, in Boston Harbor, 25th Dec. 1778, hoisted sail, made for sea, and were immediately overtaken by the most tremendous snow storm with cold, that was ever known in the memory of man, and, unhappily, parted their cable in Plymouth harbor, in a place called the Cow-yards, and he, with about 100 others, was frozen to death ; sixty-six of whom were buried in one grave.\* He was in the 21st year of his age.— And now Lord God Almighty, just and true are all thy ways, but who can stand before thy cold ?’

---

Hon. ELISHA MAY was a distinguished citizen of this town, who was often employed in public office, and whose name is still held in reverence by those who remember him. Courteous and gentlemanly in his manners, and honorable and upright in his principles, he was universally esteemed. Intelligent and active in business, he was well qualified to fulfil the various offices to which he was elected. He discharged the various duties which devolved upon him, with ability, and entire satisfaction to his constituents. He was, in fine, one of the most valuable citizens of this town. He died Nov. 15th, 1811, in the 73d year of his age. His character is justly though briefly described by one who was personally acquainted with him. The following extract is from a Discourse delivered at his interment, by the Rev. John Wilder, then the pastor of the 1st Congregational Church in this town.

‘ His memory will long be precious, not only to his near relatives and friends, but likewise to his intimate acquaintance, to his neighbors, to the religious society in this place, and to the inhabitants of the town. For he is the man whom his fel-

---

\* In the town of Plymouth.

low-citizens have delighted to honor; nor was he unworthy their respect and confidence. For blessed with a sound mind, a retentive memory, a quick discernment of men and things, a polite address, an honest heart, and an education considerably above mediocrity, he was singularly qualified for public employments of various kinds. And his worth was early discovered; for at the time of the Revolutionary war he was an active and useful member both in the military and civil departments.— Since that period he was employed, without opposition, as a legislator, or a counsellor, until he chose to retire. For about 27 years in succession, one excepted, he was called to a seat in the Legislature, and chiefly in the upper house. For almost forty years together he has been moderator of the town meetings in this place; in which office he was equalled by few, and exceeded by none. He had the honor of being an elector of the President of the United States. As a magistrate throughout the Commonwealth, he did much business, and to very general satisfaction. He was justly celebrated both at home and abroad, for his wisdom in adjusting and settling differences between contending parties. As a politician he was a friend and disciple of Washington. As a man he was prepossessing and engaging. As a friend he was faithful and constant. As a neighbor he was kind and obliging. As a husband he was attentive and tender. As a parent he was pleasant and affectionate. As to his religion, he was a firm believer in the christian system, and a very constant, attentive, and apparently devout attender on public worship, all his life.'

---

JOHN FOSTER, Esq. appears from the records to have been a useful public man in his day, though but few facts of his life are known to the author. He was chosen moderator of town meetings for a long succession of years—was a surveyor of lands—an active justice of the peace—and for several years a representative of the town, &c.

---

REV. JONATHAN MAXCY, S. T. D. President of Rhode Island, Union and Columbia colleges, was one of the most eminent pulpit orators of this country. He was born in this town, Sept.

2d, 1768. He prepared for college, in the school of the Rev. William Williams, of Wrentham, which was then the most celebrated institution in the vicinity, and the resort of a great many young men for the pursuit of classical studies. He graduated at Brown University in 1787, and was immediately appointed a Tutor. He was ordained pastor of the 1st Baptist Church in Providence, Sept. 8, 1791, and at the same time was appointed the first Professor of Divinity in that college.\* After the death of President Manning, he was unanimously elected President, A. D. 1792, at the early age of *twenty-four*!—He presided over this University for eleven years, with distinguished success and with a splendid reputation for eloquence and learning. His administration was marked by mildness, urbanity and dignity. Under his guardianship the University acquired a distinguished name for oratory. Guided by his fostering genius, it sent forth a constellation of eloquent and accomplished speakers, who have shone in various departments of public life, and whose eloquence has been felt in the pulpit, at the bar, and in the halls of legislation—many of whom have acquired a national renown. He was peculiarly fitted to stamp impressions of his own character on the minds of those around him, and to infuse his own spirit into theirs. He acquired a salutary influence over the youth committed to his charge. He imbued their hearts with a taste for literature and with a love of truth and moral beauty,—and excited in their bosoms, the most ardent aspirations after excellence. He knew well how to kindle and fan the flame of Genius. His memory is cherished by all his pupils with peculiar affection and gratitude.—In speaking of the University, it has been truly said, that he was one ‘whose name and fame are identified with its reputation, and whose mingled mildness, dignity, and goodness, equalled only by his genius, learning and eloquence, subdued all envy, made all admirers friends, and gave him an irresistible sway over the minds of those placed under his care.’†

Though accomplished in every department of learning, he was distinguished more particularly as a Belles Lettres scholar.

---

\*He was the first and only professor of divinity ever appointed in Brown University.

† Hon. Virgil Maxcy's Discourse before the Phi Beta Kappa of Brown University, Sept. 4th, 1833.

His oratory was in some respects peculiar. There was nothing in it like rant or affectation—no appearance of that popular declamation which is so often employed to captivate the multitude. There was apparently no attempt in it to produce effect—no labored display—but every thing appeared easy, natural and unstudied. It was deep—impassioned—but not declamatory. His voice was not naturally powerful, but he had it perfectly under his control through all its intonations. He usually commenced in a calm and moderate tone, but grew warmer and more animated as he advanced in his discourse, and gradually and imperceptibly gained upon the attention and feelings of his hearers, until every one present was wholly engrossed upon the subject of the speaker. Indeed, he himself seemed completely absorbed in his own subject, and by the influence of sympathy carried his audience with him.

His delivery was remarkably expressive. Every sentiment he uttered came from the heart and vibrated through his whole frame.—Every cord and muscle was an echo to his soul. His elocution was full of grace—yet his *power* was not in this—it was in the life,—the soul,—which he infused into his voice,—his gestures,—and his countenance,—all expressive and harmonious. His eloquence was at once graceful and forcible.—In a word, he had in perfection, what Demosthenes called *Action*.

He did not neglect to cultivate the minor graces of elocution. He never made a prayer or delivered any thing in public, extempore, even on the most ordinary occasions, in which every sentence and every word were not accurately arranged and in their right place. Though his voice was naturally feeble, it was able to occupy a large compass, and every word and every syllable he uttered, in the largest audience, fell distinctly on the ear of the most distant auditor.

The following extract will show the estimation in which he was held at the South. It was written but a short time previous to his death, and contains a brief but lively description of the impressive effects of his eloquence, even when his powers were impaired by advancing age and feeble health.

From the Charleston City Gazette.

*Extract of a letter from a gentleman residing in Columbia, to his friend in Charleston.*

"COLUMBIA, 6th July, 1819.

"Last Sunday we went to hear Dr. Maxcy. It being the 4th of July, it was a discourse appropriate to that eventful period. I had always been led to believe the Doctor an eloquent and impressive preacher; but had no idea, till now, that he possessed such transcendent powers. I never heard such a stream of eloquence.—It flowed from his lips, even like the oil from Aaron's head. Every ear was delighted, every heart was elated, every bosom throbbed with gratitude. Such appropriate metaphor! such grand, such sublime descriptions! such exalted ideas of Deity! and delivered with all the grace, the force, the elegance of a youthful orator! I was sometimes in pain, lest this good old man should outdo himself and become exhausted; but as he advanced in his discourse, he rose in animation, till at length he reached heights the most sublime, and again descended with the same facility with which he soared. So far as I can judge, (and your partiality, I know, will allow me to be no mean critic) there was not heard the slightest deviation from the most correct enunciation and grammatical arrangement; all the powers of art seemed subservient to his absolute control. In short, I never heard any thing to compare to Dr. Maxcy's sermon, in all the course of my life; and, old as I am, I would now walk even twenty miles through the hottest sands to listen to such another discourse. I am persuaded, I shall never hear such another in this life."

His most celebrated performance, while he presided over Brown University, regarded as a specimen of pulpit oratory, was his sermon on the existence and attributes of God, delivered at Providence in 1795, which is frequently spoken of, even at this day, and produced at the time the most lively and striking effect on the audience. Those who heard it will never forget it. The impression it produced was the result, in a great degree, of the manner of its delivery. Such a brilliant effort of eloquence has seldom been witnessed in any house of public worship. This discourse, though enlivened by a bold, luxuriant, and brilliant imagination, and a loftiness of conception, is yet characterized by his usual neatness and simplicity

of language. Indeed, in his highest flights, his *style* of writing was always remarkable for a pure English idiom and a classical simplicity of language. In fine, he was an eloquent orator and a learned scholar.

In 1802, Dr. Maxcy resigned the Presidency of Brown University, and accepted that of Schenectady, N. Y. where he remained till the establishment of the new College in Columbia, S. Carolina, in 1804, of which he was appointed the first President, and immediately removed to that place, where he continued till the day of his death, June 4th 1820, at the age of 52. He was appointed to the office of President the youngest, and presided the longest in proportion to his years, of any person in this country. He was connected with some college, either as student or officer, nearly 38 out of the 52 years of his life.

In 1801 he was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Harvard University.

His wife was Susan Hopkins, a daughter of Commodore Esek Hopkins of Providence, by whom he had several daughters,—and four sons, all of whom have been liberally educated. Several of the sons still survive and are in the profession of the law. His widow is still living in Columbia, S. C.

He published a Discourse on the death of President Manning, 1792; a Sermon on the Existence of God demonstrated from the works of creation, 1795; a Discourse on the Atonement, in two parts, 1796; an Address to a Class, 1797; an Address to the graduating class, 1801; an Address to the graduating class, 1802; an Oration on the 4th of July; and a Funeral Sermon before the Legislature of South Carolina, 1818.

'This is necessarily, a brief, and, I fear, an imperfect sketch. It requires an abler pen than mine to portray the amiable and brilliant character of Maxcy, and to do justice to his splendid talents as an orator. Those only who knew him in the meridian of life, and who have seen and felt the power of his eloquence, can give an adequate description. His memory demands a tribute of filial affection from some one of his many distinguished pupils, who are so deeply indebted to his example and instructions for the eminence which they now enjoy in public life.

HON. EBENEZER DAGGETT, who died recently, while a member of the Senate from Bristol District, affords the example of a life worthy of imitation by his fellow citizens. He was the youngest son of Col. Daggett whose life has been previously noticed, and was born April 16, 1763. Few men in this town have devoted so large a portion of their time to the public service. He held a commission of the Peace for nearly 30 years, and honorably discharged its most important duties. He served the town at various times in the capacity of Selectman and Town Clerk upwards of twenty years. He represented the town several years in the General Court. A large part of the last thirty years of his life was occupied in some public employments. In various ways he rendered himself serviceable to his fellow citizens. In the spring of 1831 he was elected a member of the Senate for this District. At the succeeding November election he was re-chosen to the same office;—and while in the discharge of the honorable and responsible duties of this station, he was called by the order of Providence to close his life, at Boston, on the 4th of March, 1832, in the 69th year of his age.

Possessed of natural abilities above mediocrity, which he had improved by self-education, he always directed them to useful purposes. Plain and unassuming in his manners, mild and uniform in his disposition—he had won the confidence of his fellow-citizens, but never sought after the honors which were bestowed upon him. Guided by fixed and pure principles, he was upright and honorable in all his dealings with his fellow-men; and preserved a character of unsullied integrity, through a long and active life. He was regarded by his neighbors as their father and adviser. If they were in difficulty or doubt, they came to him for counsel and assistance, and both were freely offered. So great was their confidence in his integrity and judgment, that he was generally the chosen umpire in cases of controversies between his fellow-citizens. He was, in fine, in the true and enlarged sense of the word, a *useful* man. His life, indeed, as has been justly remarked of him, affords an encouraging example of the truth, that respectable talents united with integrity and industry will raise a man to honor and usefulness.

The following remarks on the character of the deceased, are

extracted from a Funeral Discourse, delivered at Attleborough 22d April, 1832, by Rev. Mr. Ferguson.

‘Where is that venerated husband and father, that highly esteemed and useful citizen, who scarce four months ago, stood bending under the bereavement of Providence, an unexpected, yet quiet and submissive mourner\* in the house of the Lord? Alas! he has gone down to the grave unto his son, mourning. The last opportunity which I enjoyed of conversing with our departed friend, was on the eve of his leaving home to attend to his official duties, in the Legislature, as a member of the Senate. I mention this circumstance, because it was then abundantly evident, that those official honors, which are generally sought as the rewards of successful competition, may come to be regarded as a burden rather than an honorable distinction. During our conversation he lamented, that official duties obliged him at such a time to leave home, and to mingle in scenes so foreign to the state of his mind. He regretted that the choice of the people had not fallen upon some other candidate, and remarked, that such scenes were better adapted to gratify those who were young and aspiring, than the aged and afflicted. It is known to you all, that from that tour of duty, he never returned. To an observer it must have been evident, that to commune with his own heart—to mingle his sympathies with those of his family, and to prepare himself for his own great change, would have been more congenial to his mind, than the halls of Legislation, and the investigation of our political relations. In his case, moreover, political employments had long ceased to be a novelty. He was emphatically a public man. Twenty years of his life had been occupied in superintending the interests of the town. Twice he was elected to the Senate;—and perhaps no man among us has been more called upon to administer upon the estates of the deceased and to act as the guardian of the orphan. The general character which he sustained through life was that of uniformity, uprightness, and moderation. In the hottest strife of parties, although a public and a decided man, he never could be regarded as a partisan. He had been an actor and in some respects a public character from the time of the Revo-

---

\* For the sudden and violent death of a beloved son.

lution ; but through all the changes of the eventful times in which he lived, he continued to the last to stand forth before his fellow-citizens, in the character of an honest, upright, and consistant man.

His last sickness commenced on the 23d of February. He had, the day before, in apparent health, attended the Centennial Celebration of the birth of Washington, and walked in procession with the other members of the Senate ; but all beyond was his dying sickness. Early on the succeeding morning, he was violently attacked with a fever, which terminated in death on the 4th of March.

I have felt it my duty, in view of his public character, to enter into details which, in other circumstances, might have been inexpedient. In the relations of life ; in his intercourse between man and man ; in the maintenance of a character for uniformity, uprightness, and self-possession, his works praise him, and he is with us, for an example. In all that is beyond, it is ours to consign him to his grave and to his God. Happy would it be for our community, were our party divisions always controlled by men of equal mildness and moderation—happy would it be for our community, did all our public men manifest an equal regard for the maintenance of order, morals, and religion.’

---

There were many other worthy and useful citizens, who deserve commemoration in this place,—who, though dead, yet live in their works. But at this distance of time it is difficult to ascertain the peculiar traits of their character, and the events of their lives. The retired but useful employments in which they were engaged, and the ‘even tenor of their lives,’ supply but few prominent incidents for the pen of the biographer. The sketches already given afford a respectable list of public men for a humble country town like ours.

# A LIST OF THE GRADUATES AT BROWN UNIVERSITY FROM THIS TOWN.

## *Graduated.*

- 1776. Preston Mann, A. M. son of Doct. Bezeliel Mann, Physician—settled in Newport, R. I.
- 1783. Othniel Tyler, A. M. son of John Tyler, Lawyer, Sudbury, Mass.
- 1787. John Milton Mann, son of Dr. Bezeliel Mann, Physician, settled in Hudson, N. Y. and was drowned in crossing the river of that name.
- 1787. Jonathan Maxcy, S. T. D. son of Levi Maxcy, born Sept. 2d, 1768, President of Providence College, Union, Schenectady N. Y. and Columbia College, S. C. died at the latter place June 4th, 1820, æt. 52.
- 1788. Jesse Blackington, son of Peter Blackington, resides in Ashtabula, county of Ashtabula, Ohio.
- 1788. William May, son of Elisha May, born Jan. 26th 1764, student of law, died July 12th 1790, in the 27th year of his age.
- 1789. Paul Draper, A. M. son of Stephen Draper, born Sept. 19th 1767, entered on board an American man of war, and was never after heard of.
- 1790. Aaron Draper, son of Josiah Draper, born Nov. 29th 1764, never studied a learned profession—settled in Providence R. I. where he died.
- 1802. Gardner Daggett, A. M. son of Elijah Daggett, born Dec. 20th, 1782, lawyer, Providence, R. I. where he died.
- 1802. Milton Maxcy, son of Levi Maxcy, born Jan. 1st 1782, lawyer in Beaufort, S. Carolina, where he died of the yellow fever in 1818.
- 1803. Jason Sprague, A. M. son of John Sprague, was, for some time, Preceptor of the High School in Newport, R. I. He died in the United States army.
- 1804. Virgil Maxcy, son of Levi Maxcy, lawyer in Baltimore Maryland, now Solicitor of the Treasury of the United States, Washington City.
- 1807. Lorenzo Bishop, son of Zephaniah Bishop, born Aug. 20th 1785, student of law, died in Attleborough, May 26th 1809, æt. 23.

1809. Jacob Ide, A. M. Rev. son of Jacob Ide, minister in Medway, Mass.
1809. William Tyler, Rev. A. M. son of Ebenezer Tyler, minister at Weymouth, and now at South Hadley, Mass.
1811. Benjamin Cozzens, A. M. son of Benjamin Cozzens, formerly lawyer at Pawtucket—now resides at Providence, R. I.
1811. Hartford Sweet, A. M. son of Gideon Sweet, born Oct. 30th, 1790, had not finished studying his profession—died at the South in 18—.
1817. Everett Bolkcom, son of Jacob Bolkcom, born Sept. 1796, lawyer, Attleborough, died Dec. 19th, 1823, æt. 27.
1821. James O. Barney, Rev. son of — Barney, of Providence, R. I. minister at Seekonk Centre, Mass.
1821. Moses Thacher, Rev. A. M. son of — Thacher, minister in North Wrentham, Mass.
1822. Preston Cummings, Rev. son of David Cummings, minister in Dighton, Mass.
1822. Henry H. F. Sweet Rev. son of Henry Sweet, born Nov. 1st, 1796, minister in Palmer, Mass. died Feb. 20th 1827, æt. 30.
1822. John Wilder, Rev. A. M. son of John Wilder, minister in Charlton, now in Concord, Mass.
1823. Benoni Allen, Rev. son of — Allen, preacher in— Ohio.
1824. Ira Barrows, M. D. son of — Barrows, physician, Pawtucket, Mass.
1825. Hermon Bourne, M. D. son of Andrew Bourne, physician, Boston, Mass.
1825. William S. Stanley, M. D. son of Thomas Stanley, physician in Mamaroneck, N. Y.
1825. Samuel T. Wilder, son of John Wilder, lawyer, Rochester, N. Y.
1826. Jason B. Blackington, A. M. son of William Blackington, lawyer, in Holden, Mass. now in Ohio.
1826. John Daggett, A. M. son of Ebenezer Daggett, lawyer, Attleborough.
1831. Salmon C. Perry, son of Josiah Perry.

There have been graduates from this town at several of the other New England Colleges. A full list of their names has not been obtained. Among them was,

1766

John Barrows who graduated ~~1776~~ at Harvard College, was son of John Barrows. He married his wife in Cambridge, and settled, as a schoolmaster, in Dighton, Mass. where he died.

At Yale College, in 1748, Naphtali Daggett, of whom a sketch has been already given. In 1762, Philip Daggett, brother of the last named, was born 11th September, 1739; he settled and died in New Haven. Henry Daggett, who graduated at Yale College, in 1771, son of Elder Elihu Daggett (mentioned in page 68) was born 9th April, 1741—settled at New Haven, where he was at first a merchant, subsequently, Police magistrate, Alderman of the city, &c. He died 11th Aug. 1830. In 1783 graduated the Hon. David Daggett, L. L. D. the present distinguished and learned Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. He was formerly a Senator of the United States, and has been for several years Professor of Law in Yale College, &c. In 1761 graduated Rev. Pelatiah Tingley, A. M. son of Timothy Tingley.

He was a Baptist preacher, and was settled in Sanford, Maine. About 1780, he became a seceder from the prevailing sect of Baptists, and was the first minister who united with Elder Benjamin Randall, the founder of the new sect, usually denominated Arminian or Free-Will Baptists, who rejected the leading doctrines of Calvinism.\*

#### NAMES OF SEVERAL FORMER PHYSICIANS IN ATTLEBOROUGH.

Doct. Joseph Daggett (of Rehoboth)—Doct. — Hewes,—Dr. Abijah Everett—Dr. Bezelial Mann—Dr. Richard Bowen, (of Rehoboth)—Dr. Joseph Bacon—Dr. Comfort Fuller (son of Noah Fuller)—Dr. Comfort Capron, (surgeon in the Revolutionary war)—Dr. Thomas Stanley.

\* See Benedict's His. Bap. vol. II. 410, where he is erroneously said to be a graduate of R. Island College.

MISCELLANEOUS--TOPOGRAPHY, STATISTICS, &c.

This town was incorporated in 1694. It derived its name, without doubt, from the town of Attleborough in Norfolk county, England, whence probably some of our early inhabitants emigrated to America, and settled, first at Hingham, or Weymouth, thence removed to Rehoboth, and afterwards became purchasers and settlers of this town; and, in remembrance of their native place, selected this name. This origin of the name is confirmed by the circumstance, that, in the English town, there is a river called *Bungay*, of about the same size as the one of the same name in this town.

At the time of the incorporation it contained upwards of 30 families, which, if we assumed only five as the number in each family (which is probably too low for that period) would make 150 inhabitants. In 1790 the town contained 2166 inhabitants; in 1800, 2430; in 1810, 2716; in 1820, 3055; and at the last census in 1830, 3215, exclusive of 12 families, containing about 50 persons, which, since 1820, have been set off to Wrentham by the establishment of a new boundary between the towns, or rather, by restoring it to the original line, that of the old colony.

*A Table of the Population of this town in 1830, with the different ages, &c.*

	under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50
<i>Males</i>	198	162	163	170	233	189	142
<i>Females</i>	209	182	186	204	356	231	151

	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	
<i>Males</i>	82	70	31	8	Colored Males 9
<i>Females</i>	115	75	32	15	" Females 2

Whole number of females 1758; males 1457. Excess of females over males 301.

Number of inhabitants in Bristol County 49,592. In Massachusetts 610,408. White males 294,685; do. females 308,674. Colored males 3,360; do. females 3,685. Total males 298,045; do. females 312,359. Excess of females 14,314.

In the United States, Males white and colored, 6,521,409; Females white and colored, 6,333,481. Excess of males 187,928. Total 12,854,890. Add 11,130 seamen, &c. making the whole population of the United States, 12,866,020.

The whole area of the town, according to the survey ordered by the legislature, is 29,000 acres—by valuation 26,000.

Number acres of woodland 2,158; fresh meadow 1,767; tillage lands, including orchards, 1,205; pasture lands, 4,703; unimproved and unimprovable\* land, 12,740; covered with water 360 acres.

Number Dwelling Houses 409; Barns 345; 1 Tan-house; 28 Shops; 12 Stores; 3 Grist Mills; 7 Saw Mills; 8 Cotton Factories, containing about 13,000 spindles, and 350 Power Looms.

Amount of stock in trade, \$22,000; money at interest, \$16,400; stock in Bank, 6,700. Of the latter there is now much more.

Whole length of roads in town is 100 miles. Number of Polls 591; Voters, on an average, 550. In 1790, according to Dr. Dwight, number of dwelling houses was 314. There are 23 School Districts, numbering on an average about 45 scholars each.

**RIVERS.** They are worthy of notice not so much for their size, as for the valuable water privileges which they afford, and which are now occupied for manufacturing purposes.—There are several streams of water in this town, the principal of which is the Ten Mile River. It rises in the southerly part of Wrentham, on the farm of Mr. John Fuller, and running in a southerly course through this town and through Seekonk, empties into Seekonk Cove, an arm of the Narragansett. Its length in this town is 9 miles; its whole length is about 25 miles. Its average width is two rods and a half. This stream is exceedingly important to the interests of the town, for on this are our principal manufacturing establishments.

There is another stream of considerable size, called the Seven Mile River, which crosses the road near Newell's Tavern, and bearing a southerly direction unites with the Ten Mile River, a little above Kent's Factory, near the line of Pawtucket. Its length is about ten miles.

---

\*This is a large estimate—doubtless more than truth will warrant. There is strictly but little land in this town which is absolutely *unimprovable* for purposes of agriculture—for tillage or grazing. There is, however, a large quantity which is not actually under *constant* cultivation; but there is only a small proportion of this which is not *occasionally* cultivated

Another small stream, called Abbott's Run,\* rises in the northeasterly part of Cumberland, and crossing the line, several times, between that town and this, falls into the Blackstone River just below the Valley Falls.

The third or fourth in size is Bungay (or sometimes Bungee) River, which has its source in the northerly part of the town near Mansfield line, a little below the Witch Pond, and after a journey of about five miles, over an unusually level bed, falls into the Ten Mile River nearly in the centre of the town, between the Farmer's and Mechanick's Factories. Originating in a number of Springs it is an unfailing stream at all seasons of the year. A channel has been cut this year (1833) from the Witch Pond into the head of this stream. This Pond (as it is called) is an extensive *quagmire*, including about 15 acres; only a small part of which is covered with water. It is rather singular in its appearance; and may be justly considered a curiosity. A hard bottom has never been discovered in any part of it. In some places it will bear the weight of a man, but if he stands for a time, he will gradually sink till he is unable to extricate himself.

The topography of the town contains nothing peculiar; and it is therefore needless to enlarge upon it, as is often done in the sketches of our towns. Suffice it to say that, in this respect, it is similar to most towns in this vicinity—that its surface presents the usual diversity of hills and vales—that its soil embraces much land that is poor, and considerable that is good; and that its natural and agricultural products are the same as those of neighboring towns.

There are two societies for the purpose of social improvement;—‘The Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, and Social Intercourse,’ incorporated in 1816. It has a library of about 300 volumes. It holds its anniversary on the 22d Feb. in memory of the Father of his Country. The second is the ‘Social Library and Farmers’ Historical and Geographical Society,’ established in 1805. The library contains about 200 volumes.

---

\* Said to have derived its name from one Abbott, a boy, who was drowned there in the early settlement of the place. It is supposed by some that the Indian name of this stream was *Wawepoonseag*; but this is doubtful conjecture.

A Lyceum was established in 1830.

The town has 4 organized companies of Militia, 1 company of Cavalry, (mostly from this town) and one Independent foot company by the name of the 'Washington Rifle Corps,' which was chartered June 9th, 1815. Its uniform is a green frock, with pantaloons of the same color, or else white, and military caps with black plumes. It has enjoyed the reputation of being one of the finest and best disciplined companies in the Brigade.

In October, 1821, a splendid and appropriate standard, inscribed with the motto, '*Protect what your father's obtained,*' was presented to this company by the Ladies of Attleborough, accompanied with a patriotic address—which was received with that gallantry which becomes the soldier. In their address, the fair donors expressed the strongest assurance that if the dreadful din of war should ever again disturb our beloved country, this band would be found in the advanced guard of its brave defenders, asserting its rights and maintaining its honor; charging them to imitate the virtues of the illustrious patriot whose name they bore;—'to protect what our Fathers won,' that they might continue to enjoy the rich blessings which we inherit from them.

In reply, they declare that the name of Washington is alone sufficient to inspire the hearts of American soldiers with the liveliest feelings of patriotism—but when that name is heard from the lips of Columbia's Fair, and the Banner of our country is received from *their* hands, a noble ambition fires their bosoms with a firm determination to shield, from every attack, the freedom bequeathed to us from our fathers; and in conclusion assure them, that this standard shall never be wrested from their hands by a foreign enemy, or rent by an internal foe. The whole ceremony on both sides was impressive and interesting, and was conducted on both sides with propriety and dignity.

The Names of its several commanders are 1st, Capt. Elihu Daggett, Jr.—2, Capt. Chester Bugbee—3, Capt. William Everett—4, Capt. Willard Robinson—5, Capt. Virgil Blackington—6, Capt. David E. Holman.

In the winter and spring of 1816, this town was visited by the most fatal sickness which was ever known in these parts.

It extended to several other towns adjoining ; but did not prove so fatal as here. It swept off in the short space of 90 days, about 100 inhabitants, a large proportion of them heads of families, and many of them the most useful and respectable citizens of the town. It was commonly called the *cold plague*. It generally terminated in a few days. Very few who were attacked with it, recovered. No disease of the same kind has ever been known here either before or since that period.

No Bills of Mortality have been regularly kept ; and the average age of the inhabitants in any given period cannot be ascertained. There have been several instances of very long lives. Dea. Elkanah Wilmarth died at the age of 99 years and 7 months. Mary Freeman, relict of Jøn. Freeman, died March 4th, 1762, aged about 100 years.

Wid. Sarah Claflin, relict of Antipas Claflin, died in Sept. 1777, supposed to be 100 years and 6 months old. Capt. Samuel Robinson lived to approach very near the age of 100.—Zephaniah Robinson also reached a very advanced age.

John Shepard (who was a native of Foxborough where he lived till a few years before his death) died in this town in 1809, at the extreme age of 105 years. He retained all his faculties of mind and body, except his eye sight, to the last, and was just able to walk, with a little assistance, till a few days before his death.\* He lived over a hundred years on his native spot. He was a man of pious character ;—cheerful in disposition—jocose, witty, and of a quick understanding. He was deprived of his eye sight on a sudden, during the night—and was not himself aware of it, until the next morning, when he sought in vain for the light of day. He could distinctly recollect events which had occurred a century before.

He had one son and several daughters. Two of his daughters lived to upwards of 80 years ; and another, Mrs Mary Mann, of Wrentham, who died in 1828, lived to the age of 97 years. She retained all her faculties, and usual cheerfulness and vivacity till the last fifteen years of her life. She abstained almost wholly from animal food, and never was in the habit of drinking tea or coffee, and wondered how people could

---

\* It is of him that the well known anecdote is told, that he lived in two Counties and four different towns, and yet never moved [during that time] from the spot where he was born.

love either. Her most common food was milk. She adhered to the same fashion in dress for 80 years.

A more particular description of the different Manufacturing establishments in this town is here subjoined.

The first factory in course was the Beaver Dam Factory, (recently owned by Bugbee & Haven) which was burnt in the summer of 1832.

The *Falls Factory* (so called) was built by the 'Falls Manufacturing Company', which was incorporated in 1813. It was commenced in the fall of 1809—in February, 1811, it was burnt and immediately rebuilt. The privilege has about 30 feet fall, and was the first occupied as a Mill Seat in this town. The establishment employs 40 hands—25 of them females.—It consumes about 150 bales New Orleans Cotton per year—manufactures 250,000 yards cloth, light calico printing, No. 20. The building is wood, 70 feet by 34,—3 stories high. A New Reservoir was raised here in 1831, which covers 125 acres. Connected with this establishment are 1 Machine Shop, 1 Saw Mill, 1 Blacksmith's Shop, and a Grist Mill. In addition to this factory, a new, handsome and durable building, made of stone procured in the neighborhood, was erected in 1831, 68 feet by 38—4 stories high, with a projection of 15 feet, and is filled with new and improved machinery. It is run by Jon. & Geo. Bliss, and employs about 40 hands.

'The *Farmers' Factory*,' was established in 1813, by the Farmers' Manufacturing Company. It is now owned by Jonathan and George Bliss. Number of hands employed is 23, of which 17 are females. No. bales cotton (New Orleans) consumed per year, about 75—yards cloth (calico printing, No. 30) manufactured per year, 135,000. It has about 13 feet fall.

*Mechanics' Factory*, commenced in 1811. The first firm was Ingraham, Richardson & Co. The second was Whitaker, Richardson & Co.—The next took the name of The Mechanics' Manufacturing Co. The establishment is now owned by Samuel and Jesse Carpenter. It has about 40 looms, 1036 spindles, Patterson Machinery,—manufactures per annum about 291,000 yards, calico prints, No. 27,—employs 38 hands—27 females. The building is 3 stories high—84 feet by 32. Connected with it is 1 Trip hammer shop—and Grist Mill.—

This village now constitutes a school district, No. 22. Twenty-three years ago it numbered 1 child. It has now 35 scholars in families belonging to the establishment. A school is kept from 6 to 8 months per annum,—at which 24 scholars usually attend.

*Dodge's Factory*, is the next in course. It was established in 1809, by Eben. Tyler, Esq. of Pawtucket, Nehemiah Dodge, Peter Grinnell & Son, and Abner Daggett of Providence, Elias Ingraham and Edward Richardson, of Attleborough, under the firm of The Attleborough Manufacturing Company, Eben. Tyler, Agent. The building at first was 88 feet by 31—3 stories high including the basement story. In 1820, it contained 1320 spindles, when Josiah Whitaker and John C. Dodge, of Providence, purchased one half of the factory. In the spring of 1821, the name was changed to that of the Tyler Manufacturing Company, under the agency of J. C. Dodge. In 1822, Nehemiah and John C. Dodge, purchased the remainder, and continued the business under the style of N. and J. C. Dodge. In 1829, they built an addition to the factory, of 96 feet, making it 184 feet by 31. It now contains about 4000 spindles and 92 power looms, and gives employment to 130 hands. It is the largest establishment of the kind in town. The village, which is known by the name of Dodgeville, has been recently very much improved under the superintendence of the present agent. It contains a population of 260 persons (all connected with the manufacturing establishment) 1 Machine Shop, 1 Picker House, 1 store, 1 Blacksmith shop, 4 Barns, 15 Dwelling Houses, many of them new. It forms district No. 23, and has a new, commodious and uncommonly well-finished school house, where a school is kept the greater part of the year.

*The Atherton Factory*, now owned by Thomas Harkness and Thomas J. Stead, of Providence, was established about 1812. The spot was anciently known as Chaffee's Mills, where a saw mill and Grist-mill were early built. An addition was made to the factory in 1828—making the building now 98 feet by 32.—It employs about 60 hands—40 females—consumes about 250 bales New Orleans cotton per year—manufactures cloth No. 26–28. It has 1600 spindles and 42 looms. In connection with it is a Grist mill. The establishment has been owned and improved by several different companies. It was incorpora-

ted in 1816, by the name of 'The Atherton Manufacturing Company.'

All the above mentioned manufactories are on the Ten Mile River.

*The City Factory*, owned by Daniel Read & Co. situated on the Seven Mile River, (which is the only cotton factory on that stream) was built in 1813. It was burnt in 1826, and rebuilt immediately after. The building is now 40 feet by 34—3 stories high. Number of hands employed is 17, of whom 12 are females. It runs 700 spindles and 20 looms—consumes 50 bales New Orleans cotton, and produces about 1800 yards per week. In connection with it is 1 Machine shop, which employs 12 workmen—and 1 Grocery Store.

*Lanesville Factory*, situated on Abbott's Run, was built in 1826, 70 feet by 36—60 feet high (including 4 stories and the garret) generally employs about 70 hands, of whom 30 are females—consumes 4 bales New Orleans cotton per week, and manufactures 400,000 yards calico printing cloths, No. 25.—It has about 12 feet fall; and runs 2000 spindles and 50 looms. Connected with it are a Grist mill, Saw mill, Machine shop for repairs, and a variety store. It is owned by Milton Barrows and others. This establishment has created around it a neat and handsome little village—like many of the New England factory villages.\*

**BUTTON FACTORY—Robinson, Jones, & Co.** This was the first button manufactory in the United States. The original Company (of which the present are the successors) began the business on a small scale, and it has been gradually increased until it has reached its present extent. They met with many embarrassments and discouragements in the early stages of the business.

The manufacture of Metal Buttons was commenced in 1812 by Col. Obed and Otis Robinson; and that of Glass Buttons in

---

\* This little stream, which rises and terminates in Cumberland, its whole course not being more than 8 or 9 miles, is yet able to furnish water power for several factories and other mills. The first factory is Walcott's, in Cumberland—the next is Lanesville, in Attleborough—the third is French's Factory, in Robin Hollow (so called)—4th, Abbott's Run Mills, which include two factories. On this stream above Lanesville, are also several Grist mills, Saw mills, Machine shops, &c. On a branch of this stream, near its junction with the Blackstone, is Carpenter's Factory.

1823, by Richard Robinson & Co. consisting of Richard Robinson, Virgil Blackington, and Willard Robinson—which firm was continued till about 1817, from which time it was carried on by Richard Robinson alone till 1826, when a new company was formed, under the same style of Richard Robinson & Co. for the term of 5 years, which expired in May 1831. At this time the present firm was established, consisting of Richard and Willard Robinson, William H. Jones and H. M. Draper, under the name of *Robinsons, Jones, & Co.* They commenced business in a small shop about 35 feet by 22, an addition to which was made in the summer of 1826—in which the machinery was carried by horse power. It was in the latter part of the year 1826 that they began to work on the Gilt Button.

In 1827 the Company erected a Brick factory 2 stories high, 60 feet by 25—and in 1828 the business required an addition of 25 feet long. The machinery is carried by water power (on the Ten Mile River): the Rolling Mill connected with the establishment was built in 1822, 60 feet by 25. In 1832 the company built another shop, of wood, 1 story high, 60 feet by 25.

The number of hands employed is 75, of whom 30 are females. They manufacture about 100 gross per day. At different times they have produced various kinds—from 1826 to 1832, they manufactured the common gilt, which competed in a good degree with the English. Since 1832 they have manufactured all the varieties which the market demands, the common Button, the Navy, the Military, Fancy, and Sporting Buttons—which have been acknowledged superior to any other in the market, in the beauty, finish, and durability of the work. This company has brought the manufacture of this article to such perfection, by various improvements and the skill of the workmen, as to compete fully with all others in the market whether domestic or foreign—indeed, if proper encouragement should be given by adequate protection to this branch of industry, it would soon be sufficient to supply all our home demands and exclude the foreign entirely from our markets.—This company have received all the contested premiums which have been offered by the Institutes of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston—sometimes jointly with others. They have in their possession 3 Medals (silver) and 3 Diplomas.

Several important improvements in the mode of manufacture have been made by one of the firm, Mr. Willard Robinson, for some of which patents have been secured.

A common gilt button which appears when finished so simple, undergoes in the course of being manufactured over 30 different processes—some of which require great skill and experience. Each button is separately handled twenty one times.

Some of the females mentioned as connected with this establishment are employed principally in drying, sorting, papering, and packing—and others in edging, cramping, placing the eye and preparing it for soldering. It furnishes for females a neat, agreeable and profitable occupation.

The capital employed by this establishment is about \$50,000. They use in gilding about \$15,000 worth of pure gold, generally obtained in its natural state; and consume 40 tons of Lehigh Coal, annually.

The number of tenements occupied by those employed in the factory is 13. Several new dwelling houses have been lately erected for their use.

Agencies for the sale of this article have been established in all the principal cities in the Union. Some of the articles have been exported to foreign countries—to S. America, Hayti, and several of the West India Islands. The button now manufactured is equal in every respect to the English, and perhaps superior in durability.

Another manufactory of Buttons was established in Oct. 1832, by a different firm, under the name of Robinson, Hall & Co. The shop is situated near Newell's Tavern, on the Seven Mile River—it is 30 feet by 20. An additional shop is 'now building, 35 feet by 25, 3 stories high. This establishment employs 19 hands, of whom 10 are females; and when the new building is completed, it is estimated, it will employ from 25 to 30 hands in all. This company manufactures the Plain Metal Buttons—both Coat and Vest button of 3 different prices; and produces about 75 gross per day.

MANUFACTORY OF JEWELRY—*Draper, Tift & Co.*—commenced in 1821. They now manufacture, annually, to the amount of \$15–20,000 worth. They employ from 12 to 15 hands—part of them females. The building occupied for this business is two stories high, 40 feet by 22. Sales of the manufacture are made principally at New York and Philadelphia.

They formerly carried on to a large amount the manufacture of Patent Brass Door Ketches or Fasteners. The establishment is located on the Turnpike near Hatch's Hotel.

*Manufactory of Power loom shuttles*—by Col. Willard Blackington, at East Attleborough—commenced in the fall of 1827—employs 12 journeymen. About 25 doz. shuttles are produced per week in the establishment, at the rate of \$6 per doz. He also supplies a large amount of shuttle mountings for the use of other shuttle makers. The whole amount of the manufacture of this establishment is about \$10,000 *per annum*. The work has an extensive sale throughout the U. States—in Maryland, Georgia, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and in all the New England States. Agents for the sale of this article are established at Pawtucket, George Mumford; N. Adams, Ms. S. Burlingame; Providence, R. I. Peter Grinnell & Son; Norwich, Ct. Smith, Goddard & Coats; N. York, C. N. Mills; Troy, N. Y. J. Merritt & Co.; Philadelphia, W. Almond; Baltimore, Wells & Chase, &c. &c.

Hervey M. Richards has established a Jewelry Shop near the Union House on the Turnpike,—manufactures a variety of articles, watch keys, finger rings, guard chains, breast pins, &c.—commenced in 1831—employs 12 hands—3 females.—Amount of manufacture about \$8,000 per year. The building is 2 stories, 32 feet by 16. He rents another shop on the same road, which employs 5 workmen.

Samuel Phillip's Jewelry Shop, near the city—employs about 6 hands—manufactures the usual variety. Alfred Barrows has also established a workshop of the same kind.

Richards & Price have a Jewelry Shop—commenced in 1830—employs 6 hands—situated between the Turnpike and the Falls Factory.

Dennis Everett's Jewelry Shop—commenced business in 1831—employs now 4 hands.

The manufacture of Glass Buttons and steps was commenced 6 years ago by Richard Everett, who employs in this work 4 hands.

Jesse F. Richards & Edwin Ellis have lately commenced the business of making Brass Butts and Castings, and the other kinds of brass work.

Virgil Blackington also manufactures Glass Steps, and employs two hands.

## APPENDIX.

---

[The preceding pages having been sent to the press as fast as they were written, many subjects were omitted in their proper places, which would have been included in the body of the work, if the author had suspected, at the time, that it would have been extended to its present size. Some of them are here added.]

### CAPT. THOMAS WILLETT.

Some notice of Capt. Thomas Willett who stands at the head of our list of Proprietors, and whose life is but little known, will not be deemed inappropriate. His history does not exclusively belong to this town, but, as he took so active and important a part in the original purchase and settlement of this and the neighboring towns, a brief sketch of his life seems to be demanded by the interest which our citizens must feel in his character.

Capt. Willett was one of the last of the Leyden company, and came here about 1630. He was a very young man when he arrived in this country. He was a merchant by profession, and in his travels had become acquainted with the Pilgrims in Leyden, and had probably spent much of his time with them in Holland previous to their emigration to this country. He at first resided in Plymouth, and soon became a useful and distinguished man in the colony.

Soon after his arrival in 1630, though, as already observed, a young man, he was sent by the company of Plymouth, who had established a trading house at Kennebeck, to superintend their business as agent. While he was residing there, Gov. Winthrop relates of him the following curious anecdote :

‘ At Kennebeck, the Indians wanting food, and there being store in the Plymouth trading house, they conspired to kill the

English there for their provision; and some Indians coming into the house, Mr. Willett, the master of the house, being reading the Bible, his countenance was more solemn than at other times, so as he did not look cheerfully upon them, as he was wont to do; whereupon they went out and told their fellows, that their purpose was discovered. They asked them how it could be. The others told them that they knew it by Mr. Willett's countenance, and that he had discovered it by a book that he was reading. Whereupon they gave over their design.'—Win. Jour. I. 322.

In 1647 he became the successor of Miles Standish in the command of the famous military company, at Plymouth.\*

He was, in 1651, elected an Assistant of the Governor, and was annually continued in that office till 1665, when other duties obliged him to decline, and James Brown, of Swansea, was chosen his successor. At this time he was selected by the Plymouth Court, agreeably to the request of his Majesty's Commissioners, to attend them at New York, (which had just been surrendered by the Dutch) for the purpose of assisting them in organizing the new government.

It is mentioned by Davis in a note to his edition of Morton's Memorial, that 'Col. Nichols (one of the Commissioners) in a letter to Gov. Prince, written from New York, the spring after the reduction of the Dutch settlements, requests that Capt. Willett may have such a dispensation from his official engagements in Plymouth Colony, as to be at liberty to assist in modelling and reducing the affairs in this settlement, into good English. He remarks that Mr. Willett was more acquainted with the manners and customs of the Dutch than any gentleman in the country, and that his conversation was very acceptable to them.'

He executed his duties here to the entire satisfaction of all concerned; his services were so highly appreciated, and he

---

\* 'March 7th, 1647. The Military Company of New Plymouth, having according to order proposed unto the Court two men for every especial of-  
fice of their band, the Court do allow and approve of

Capt. Thomas Willett, for Captain.

Mr. Thomas Southworth, for Lieutenant.

Mr. William Bradford, for Ensign.'

*Old. Col. Rec.*

rendered himself so popular with the people, that after the organization of the government, he was chosen the first English Mayor of the city of New York. He was elected the second time to the same office. 'But,' (as Mr. Baylies the historian of Plymouth Colony has justly remarked) 'even this first of city distinctions conferred by that proud metropolis, did not impart more real honor to his character than the address and good feeling manifested by him in effecting the peaceable settlement of the humble town of Swansea.'

The Dutch had so much confidence in his integrity, that he was chosen by them the umpire to determine the disputed boundary between New York and New Haven.

He was also for a number of years one of the commissioners or delegates of the United Colonies.

Soon after the settlement of Rehoboth, Capt. Willett removed to Wannamoisett, now a part of Swansea, where he resided during most of the remainder of his life. A grant of the greater part of that township (Swansea) was made to him and others. With him was associated Mr. Myles, (the first Baptist minister in New England) and they two are justly esteemed the founders of Swansea. The manner in which they conducted the settlement of that plantation was just and honorable, and reflects much credit on the character of both.

Capt. Willett always cultivated a friendly intercourse with the Indians, and gained their confidence and good will. Hence he was generally employed by the colony in the purchase of lands from the native chiefs.\*

The following order relating to him was passed by the Plymouth Court.

March 1665-6. In reference to an order of Court bearing date the third day of October 1665, wherein our Honored Governor Major Winslow, Capt. Southworth, and Mr. Constant Southworth were appointed to be a committee in reference to a certain tract of land purchased by Capt. Willett on the north side of Rehoboth, which said order empowereth the said Committee to dispose and settle a proportion of the said lands on the said Capt. Willett as they shall think meet; and the Court

---

\* He was the original purchaser of the Rehoboth North Purchase (Attleborough and Cumberland)—Taunton North Purchase (Norton, Mansfield, and Easton) and many other tracts of land in the vicinity.

do therefore settle and confirm unto him four or five hundred acres of the said lands, to be laid out for him on the Easterly side or end of the said lands, to him and his heirs forever.\*

Rehoboth also voted him a grant for his services to that town. '21st 12th mo. 1660. In town meeting it was voted that Mr. Willett should have liberty to take up five hundred or six hundred acres of land northward or eastward beyond the bounds of our town, where he shall think it most convenient to himself.—*Rehoboth Records.*

Capt. Willett married Mary Brown (supposed to be the daughter of Mr. John Brown the 1st) at Plymouth, 6th July, 1636, by whom he had several children; Thomas; Hester b. 6th July, 1647; Rebecca, d. 2d April 1652; James, b. Nov. 24, 1649; Andrew; Samuel; Hezekiah, who died 26th July, 1651; Hezekiah (2d) b. 16th Nov. 1652,—&c.

His son James married Eliz. daughter of Lieut. Peter Hunt of Rehoboth, 17th April, 1673; Hezekiah 2d, married Anna, daughter of Mr. John Brown 2d, of Rehoboth, 7th Jan. 1675, and was killed soon after by the Indians in Philip's War.—John Saffin (who had resided in Situate and Swansea) married a daughter of Capt. Willett, and settled in Bristol, R. I. and Samuel Hooker§ of Farmington, Ct. married another daughter.†

Several of his descendants have become distinguished in the history of the country. His grandson Francis was a prominent man in Rhode Island colony. Another descendant,‡ his

---

\* This grant was laid out to him and recorded in the Rehoboth North Purchase Books. It lies on the Seven Mile River, and has always borne the name of Willett's Farm. In 1720 it was divided into two parts between Capt. Samuel Tyler and Joyce Newell, widow of Jacob Newell.—This farm was originally laid out with great regularity—in parallel lines—and its subsequent divisions have been preserved in good shape.

§ Baylies' Memoirs of Plymouth Colony.

† I find the following on the Boston Records (copied from Dorchester) by which it appears that there was a Thomas Willett in the latter town—probably the same. His wife, perhaps, resided there during his absence in Kennebeck.—John, son of Thomas Willett and Mary his wife, born 8th 5th mo. 163—; Jonathan b. 27th 5th mo. 1638, d. 15th 6th mo. ib; Mary b. 26th 6 mo. 1639; Mehitable b. 14th 1st mo. 1641.

‡ A descendant of Samuel.

great grand-son, Col. Marinus Willett, (lately deceased) served with distinguished honor in the Revolutionary war; and had also been Mayor of New York city. Memoirs of his life have been recently published by his son William M. Willett.

After a residence of a few years in New York, he returned to his seat in Swansea, where, after a life of distinguished usefulness, he died 4th of August,\* 1674, at the age of 63. He was buried at the head of Bullock's Cove (in what is now Seekonk) where a rough stone is erected to his memory, containing a brief and rudely-carved inscription (which is now legible) as follows:

### 1674

Here Lyeth the Body of the worthy Thomas Willett, Esq. who died August ye 4th in the 64th year of his age. Anno—  
WHO WAS THE FIRST MAYOR OF NEW YORK,

AND TWICE DID SUSTAIN THE PLACE.

His wife Mary is buried by his side. She died about 1669.

Thus the first English Mayor of the first Commercial metropolis in America, lies buried on a lonely and barren heath, in the humble town of Seekonk, at a place seldom visited by the footsteps of man,—with nought but the rudest monument to mark the spot.

The farm which he laid out in this town, at High Squissit, and agreeable to the reservation in the Deed, (see p. 8) consisted of about 500 acres, (besides his meadow and several other lots) and was situated on both sides of the Seven Mile River, beginning near Newell's tavern.

His share in the R. N. Purchase was sold by his son Capt. Andrew Willett to John Wilkinson the 1st.

The Stone Monument erected at the angle in the Old Colony Line (which is referred to, in a note, page 44) contains the following inscription. On the south side is written 'Plymouth Colony'—on the north, 'Massachusetts Colony.'

"This Monument by order of Government to perpetuate the place on which the late *Station* or *Angle Tree* formerly stood.

\* In the Old Colony Records it is said to have been the 3d Aug. but I have chosen to rely on the inscription upon his grave stone.

The Commissioners appointed by the old Colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts to run and establish this line in 1664, were Robert Stetson, Constant Southworth, Josias Winslow, Jos. Fisher, Roger Clap, and Eleazer Lusher. They began this work the 10th of May the same year, and marked a tree then standing on this spot, it being three miles south of the southernmost part of Charles River.

Lemuel Kollock, Esq. was appointed Agent to cause this monument to be erected.—By order of the General Court.

The Selectmen of the towns of Wrentham and Attleborough were present, viz. Elisha May, Ebenr. Tyler, and Caleb Richordson, Esqrs. of Attleborough; and Samuel Fisher, John Whiting, Nathan Hawes, Nathan Comstock, and Nathaniel Ware of Wrentham.

From this Stone\* the line is East 20 Degrees and a half North to Accord Pond.

Done at Wrentham, Nov. 29th, 1790, by Samuel Fisher & Son."

The line on which this stands—the boundary between Plymouth and Massachusetts Colonies—was a frequent subject of dispute during the existence of the colonies. The line was run five or six times by Commissioners appointed for the purpose. This now constitutes the boundary between Wrentham and Attleborough.

---

The original title to the North Purchase was derived from Alexander, the son of Massasoit, and the elder brother of the celebrated Philip, Sachem of Pockanoket. The deed is transcribed in pages 6-7. His original name was Mooanam, afterwards Wamsutta, or Wamsitta, and finally Alexander Pockanoket, which last name was bestowed upon him; and that of Philip upon his brother, by the Plymouth Court, on occasion of the death of their father Massasoit. It appears to have been a custom with the aborigines in this part of the country, at least with their Chiefs, to assume new names on the decease of any one of the family to which they belonged. This custom

---

\* The stone is about 14 feet in height, and two feet in width, and of immense weight.

may perhaps be traced to some Eastern origin, as many of the Indian ceremonies have already been, by historians.

A record of this transaction is preserved on the Old Colony Books, which, as I have never yet seen it in print, is here copied.

'June 6th 1660. At the earnest request of Wamsitta desiring that, in regard his father is lately deceased, and he being desirous, according to the custom of the natives, to change his name, that the court would confer an English name upon him, which accordingly they did, and therefore ordered that for the future he shall be called by the name of Alexander Pokanoket; and desiring the same in behalf of his brother, they have named him Phillip.'

The colonists during this friendly intercourse could not have imagined that, in the course of a few years, the younger brother upon whom they were bestowing the name of an ancient conqueror, and who was possessed of all the natural talent and ambition, but not the power or the good fortune of his great namesake, would become their most dangerous enemy, and the terror of all New England.

This ~~document~~ record clearly proves that Massasoit (concerning the time of whose death there has been much controversy among his historians) died *a short time previous to June 6th 1660.*

The circumstance of the bestowment of these names upon these brothers is mentioned by the ancient historians (but not the occasion of it) and without fixing any precise date. They have usually assigned a date several years earlier as the period of Massasoit's death; but modern biographers and historians have generally supposed it several years later than the true period.\*

From some circumstances within my knowledge it would

---

\* B. B. Thatcher in his *Indian Biography* lately published, maintains that Massasoit's death must have occurred several years subsequent to 1661. His words are, 'Their father not being mentioned as having attended them at the observance of the ceremony (the confirmation of a treaty &c.) has probably occasioned the suggestion of his death. It would be a sufficient explanation of his absence, however, that he was now an old man, and that the distance of ~~Spoan~~ from Plymouth was more than 40 miles.' Vol. I. Chapt. VII. p. 141.

*Sowan*

appear that among some tribes of the natives the custom prevailed of changing their habitations on the decease of any member of the family. I have heard the following circumstances related: On the farm of the late Ebenezer Daggett, Esq. formerly resided, previous to its occupation by the whites, several persons by the name of Read, who were said to be of a mixed race, part Indian and part Negro, and who were always observed to change the location of their huts on the death of any one of their number. This occurred several times within the observation of the early settlers. This custom they probably derived from their Indian descent. The survivors, who lived till after the 'East Bay Road' was established which passed near their dwellings, desired that they too might be buried near that road with their heads towards it, *that they might hear the news when the great Post stage passed!* Their request was complied with; and they were buried about ten rods from the route where the road formerly passed, with their heads in that direction. The place where they were buried is still pointed out on a rising ground or valley between two hills. The hillocks (3 or 4 in number) were distinctly visible within my remembrance. Thus they seemed to have no ideas of a physical extinction by death,—which was agreeable to the Egyptian notion. They seemed to consider death as some sort of natural change merely, and not a destruction of the material system.—Singular conceptions of a future existence.

---

Among the early settlers of this town was one Joseph Chaplin, who became a Proprietor, and a great landholder. He came here from Rowley, Mass. and was the son of Rev. Hugh Chaplin.—[*Far. Reg.*

He was a man of singular tastes and habits. He lived alone, completely a hermit's life—abjuring all society, especially that of the female sex. The cause of this seclusion is not certainly known—though tradition says, it was the faithlessness of a young lady to whom he was engaged in early life. He built him a house—cooked his own food—and made his own clothes. He laid out a large quantity of land (in the whole over 700 acres) and kept a large stock of cattle. He

planted several orchards and raised a variety of fruits. He laid out the most of that large tract of land called the 'Half-way-Swamp.' He died about the year 1750, at a very advanced age, and his property was inherited by his nephews, Jonathan Chaplin, Elizabeth (who married Samuel Searl) and John Chaplin, all of Rowley, Mass. Chaplin was not morose, but naturally benevolent; and would permit the neighboring women to come and partake the abundant fruits of his orchard, but was always careful to retire out of sight on the occasion. His only companions were a number of large cats. He was several times chosen on some town committee.

---

In the first burying ground is the following inscription, which is worthy of preservation. It is the celebrated epitaph on the Negro Slave, named Cæsar, who was given to Lieut. Josiah Maxcy by his mother when he was a child. He was admitted to communion with the Baptist church in that place. Though simple hearted, he proved through a long life remarkably honest and faithful to his masters. He survived his first master, and after his own death, was buried in the same graveyard: a decent stone was erected to his memory by his younger master, Levi Maxcy, with this inscription—which may yet be seen in the northeast corner of the burying ground, near Hatch's tavern.

' Here lies the best of slaves,  
Now turning into dust;  
Cæsar, the Ethiopian, craves  
A place among the Just.

His faithful soul has fled  
To realms of heavenly light,  
And by the blood that Jesus shed,  
Is changed from *Black* to *White*.

January 15, he quitted the stage,  
In the 77th year of his age.'

1780.

The Commissioners who were appointed by his Majesty in 1664, passed the following order respecting the boundary between Rhode Island and Plymouth Colonies, a part of which was the West line of the Rehoboth North Purchase.

*To the Great and General Assembly of Plymouth, and also of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.*

By the power given us by his Majesty's Commission under his great seal of England, and directed by his Majesty's instructions to make a temporary settlement of the bounds claimed by any Colony, of which we can make no final judgment by consent of parties, that the peace of the country may be preserved, till his Majesty's judgment and determination of their bounds be known,

WE ORDER AND DECLARE, the salt water to divide the main land and Rhode Island from Seconet Rocks northward to the point of the main land which next over against Mount Hope point to the said Mount Hope point, not touching upon Rhode Island, and so another right line from Mt. Hope point to the next point upon the main land, and so from point to point and from the last point a right line to the River's mouth called Seaconke, and up said river called Seaconke below and Pautucket above till it meets with the Massachusetts's line, to be the present bounds between his Majesty's colony of Plymouth and Rhode Island, till his Majesty's pleasure be further known concerning them. And we desire each colony to give the reasons of their pretences and a draught of their country according to their charters that we may give his Majesty true information of them, which we promise to do.

Given under our hands and seals at Newport on Rhode Island March the 7th 1664.

ROBERT CARR (seal)

GEORGE CARTWRIGHT (seal)

SAMUEL MAVERICK (seal)

A true copy examined with the original.

Per J. WILLARD, Sec'y.

ERRATA. In the list of Proprietors, page 11, by *Rober Joans*, so spelt in the original, was intended *Robert Jones*.

In the note, page 20, the date, *July 5th*, 1671, should be connected with the succeeding words, it being the time of the passing of the order which is there quoted.

In the last note, page 27, for 1765, read 1675.

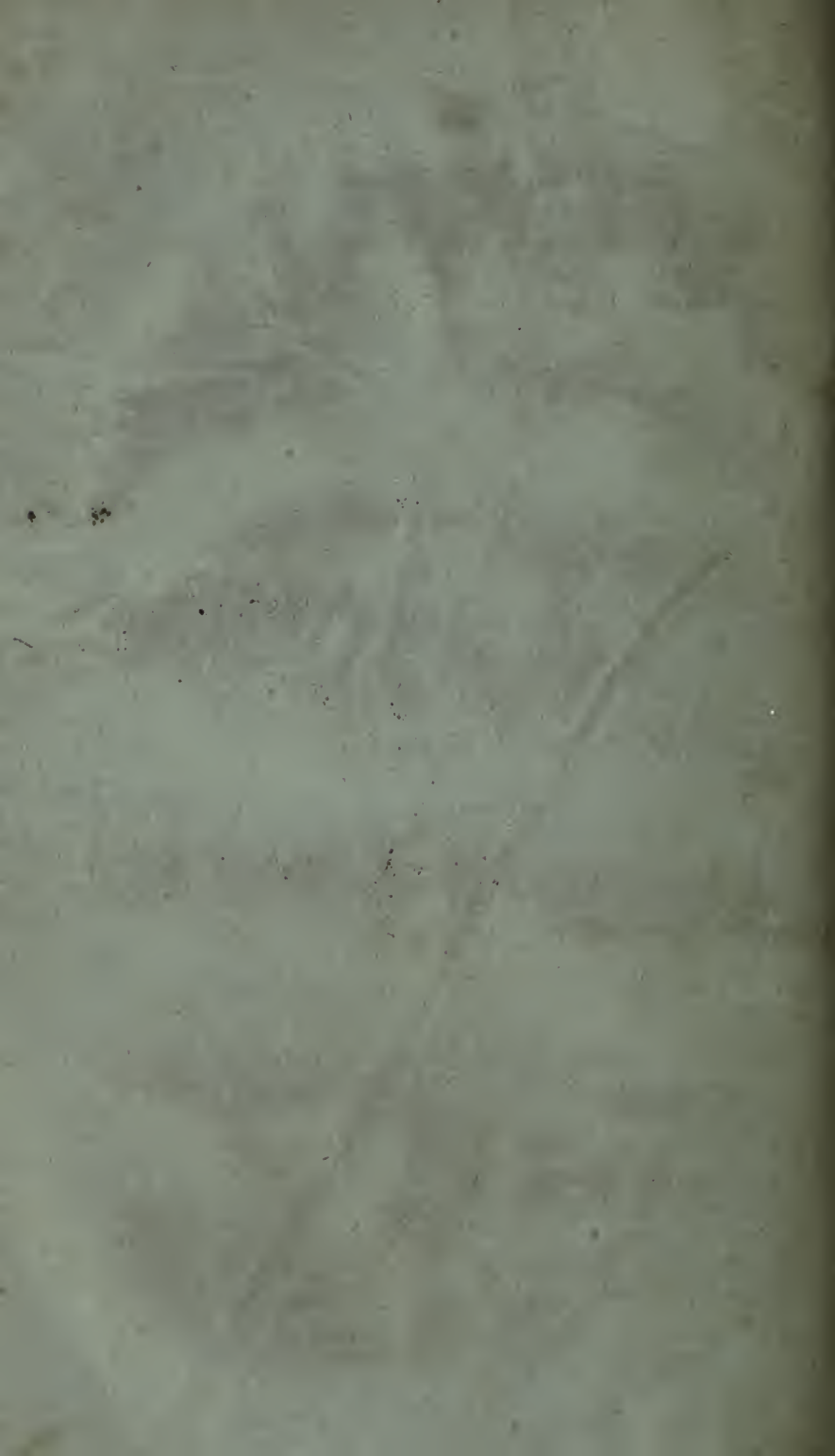
In pages 79—80, for *Aldrich* read *Nathan Aldis*.

Page 61, erase the second Note. Page 93, line 9 from the top, for *to read from*. Page 94, line 5 from top, erase the name *Seth*. Page 98, in second Note, second line, for 1769 read 1709. Page 103, second line from bottom, for *His second daughter* read *His daughter Eunice*.











**14 DAY USE**  
**RETURN TO DESK FROM WHICH BORROWED**  
**LOAN DEPT.**

This book is due on the last date stamped below, or  
on the date to which renewed.

Renewed books are subject to immediate recall.

12 Jan '58 R K X	
REC'D LD	
JAN 3 1958	
INTER-LIBRARY LOAN	
AUG 29 1969 9-30	
RECEIVED	
SEP - 9 '69 - 4 PM	
LOAN DEPT.	

LD 21A-50m-8,'57  
(C8481s10)476B

General Library  
University of California  
Berkeley

M546444

F74  
A785D3

